

**Alabama Commission
On
Higher Education**



2016

Annual Report



Mission Statement

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the state.

2018 Commission Meeting Dates

- March 9, 2018
- June 8, 2018
- September 14, 2018
- December 7, 2018



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Alabama Two-Year Public Institutions

Community Colleges

Bevill State Community College
Bishop State Community College
Calhoun Community College
Central Alabama Community College
Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Coastal Alabama Community College
Drake State Community and Technical College
Enterprise State Community College
Gadsden State Community College
Jefferson State Community College
Lawson State Community College
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Marion Military Institute
Northeast Alabama Community College
Northwest-Shoals Community College
Shelton State Community College
Snead State Community College
Southern Union State Community College
Trenholm State Community College
Wallace Community College (Dothan)
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)
Wallace State Community College (Selma)



Technical Colleges

Ingram State Technical College
Reid State Technical College



Alabama Four-Year Public Institutions



Alabama A&M University

Alabama State University

Athens State University

Auburn University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Jacksonville State University

Troy University

University of Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Alabama in Huntsville

University of Montevallo

University of North Alabama

University of South Alabama

University of West Alabama



Alabama Non-Profit Independent Institutions



Amridge University

Birmingham-Southern College

Concordia College

Faulkner University

Herzing University

Huntingdon College

Judson College

Miley College

Oakwood University

Samford University

Spring Hill College

Stillman College

Talladega College

Tuskegee University

United States Sports Academy

University of Mobile



Message from Chairman Charles Ball

As chairman of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to transmit to Governor Kay Ivey and to the Alabama Legislature the 2016-17 annual report.

This past year has been one of change for the Commission, starting with a new executive director who came on board last spring. Jim Purcell was named Alabama's State Higher Education Executive Officer (SHEEO) in April. Dr. Purcell was raised and educated in Alabama, having earned degrees from three Alabama public universities. On behalf of the commissioners, welcome home Dr. Purcell.



Charles E. Ball

Two new gubernatorial appointees were made to the Commission during the past year. Commissioner Amy Price was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley in September, 2016 and Commissioner Norman Crow was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey in September, 2017.

We are looking forward to Dr. Purcell's leadership as Alabama's higher education system continues to prepare students for the 21st century workplace. One of his first tasks has been the coordination of the Commission's strategic plan for higher education. This document will identify priority goals and strategic measures that are crucial for success throughout the higher education system in the state.

The Commission's statutory responsibilities that were met during this past fiscal year included the approval of new academic programs, off-campus offerings of public two- and four-year institutions, the maintenance of the Alabama Statewide Student Database and the submission of the Consolidated Budget Recommendation to the Legislature.

We have an outstanding higher education system in Alabama that is committed to student success. The statewide efforts of the Commission reinforce that commitment by encouraging institutions to share resources through program collaboration and partnerships.



Commissioners



Charles Ball
Chairman

*Executive Director,
Regional Planning Commission
of Greater Birmingham*

At-Large Member

*Appointed—09/01/2010
Term Expiration—08/31/2019*

Chairman Charles Ball was appointed to an at-large seat on the Commission by Governor Bob Riley. He is the executive director for the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. He has an extensive background in municipal government planning that includes Gadsden, Auburn and Albany, Georgia. He has a bachelor of arts degree in Business Administration from Birmingham-Southern College and a master of Community Planning from Auburn University.

As chairman of the Commission, he served on the Longitudinal Data System Advisory Board.

During his tenure, the Commission hired an executive director and has worked on revising procedures related to the Extensions-Alterations of Existing Programs and Post-Implementation Conditions.

Vice-chairman Randy McKinney was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to fill an at-large seat on the Commission. He is an attorney with McKinney & Associates P.C. and owns Realty Executives Gulf Coast in Gulf Shores.

Commissioner McKinney has a biology degree from the University of South Alabama, graduate degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Auburn University and a juris doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law.

He is a former vice president of the Alabama State Board of Education. He served as chairman of the 2017 search committee for the Commission's executive director.



Randy McKinney
Vice Chairman

*Attorney with
McKinney & Associates P.C.
Owner,
Realty Executives Gulf Coast*

At-Large Member

*Appointed—08/13/2015
Term Expiration—08/31/2018*



Commissioners



Charles Buntin

*Shareholder/Realtor,
Tom West Company*

Second Congressional District

*Appointed—09/01/2015
Term Expiration—08/31/2024*



Karen Calametti, MD

*President ,
Children's Medical Group
First Congressional District*

*Appointed—11/17/2011
Term Expiration—08/31/2020*



Norman Crow

*President,
D.T. & Freight Company, Inc
Seventh Congressional District*

*Appointed—09/22/2017
Term Expiration—08/31/2020*



Miranda Bouldin Frost

*President & CEO,
LogiCore Corporation*

Fifth Congressional District

*Appointed—09/18/2015
Term Expiration—08/31/2024*



Timothy Gyan

*Director
Training & Technical Assistance
Birmingham Business Resource Center
Sixth Congressional District*

*Appointed—09/18/2015
Term Expiration—08/31/2024*



Commissioners



William R. Jones, Jr.

*Governmental Relations Officer
Retired*

At-Large Member

*Appointed—04/30/2013
Term Expiration—08/31/2018*



Patricia W. McGriff

*Retired
Educator*

Fourth Congressional District

*Appointed—02/28/2012
Term Expiration—08/31/2020*



Amy Shipley Price

*Chief Nursing & Operating Officer
Coosa Valley Medical Center*

Third Congressional District

*Appointed—09/01/2016
Term Expiration—08/31/2025*



Stan R. Pylant

*President and General Manager
WHNT-TV*

At-Large Member

*Appointed—09/01/2014
Term Expiration—08/31/2023*



Charles E. Sanders, Jr.

*Attorney,
Maddox, Thornley and Sanders*

At-Large Member

*Appointed—09/01/2012
Term Expiration—08/31/2021*



Executive Director's Report

I am pleased to return to my home state, having spent more than 25 years working in higher education in other parts of the country.

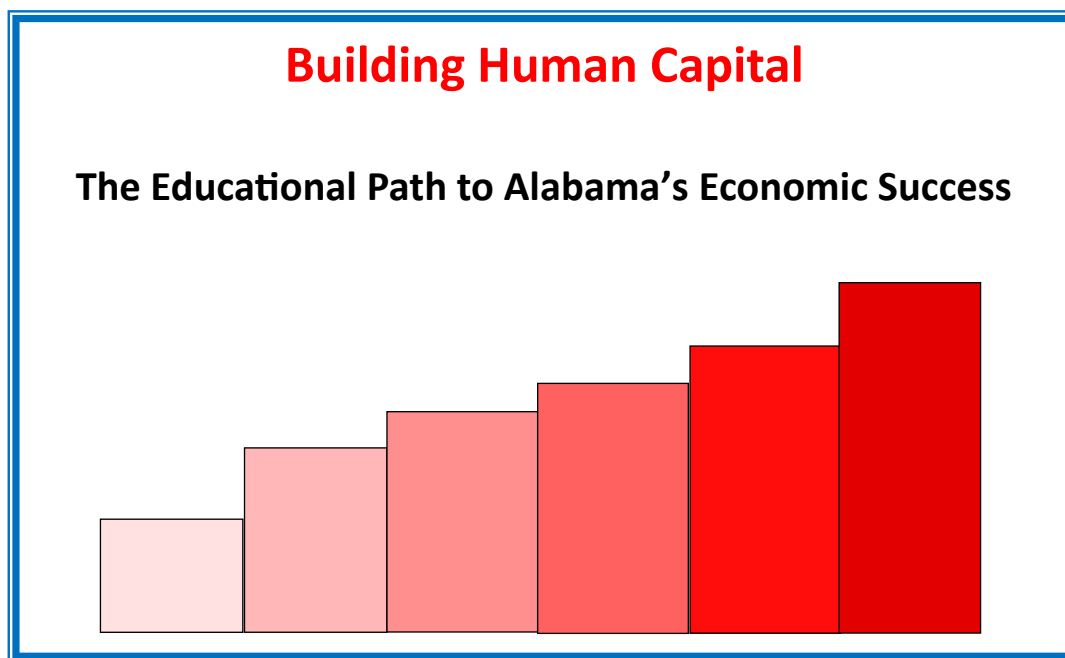
Since arriving in April, I have made it my top priority to visit all of the two- and four-year campuses across Alabama and hear from the postsecondary communities their concerns and aspirations. I have been extremely impressed with the commitment to provide students with a first-class higher education experience. All recognize the need for continuous improvement that will better serve our students.

One of the statutory mandates of the Commission is to develop a strategic plan for higher education. Building Human Capital: The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success (2018-2030) will identify priorities and goals that will capitalize on our greatest commodity in the state – our people. The five priorities of the plan are access, student success, STEM programs, the economy and workforce, and organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

It is exciting to be back home and involved in the Alabama education community. There are many possibilities before us as public higher education helps to build a bright future for our state. In order to make this a reality, all levels of education must align resources toward making Alabama an economic success story.



Dr. Jim Purcell

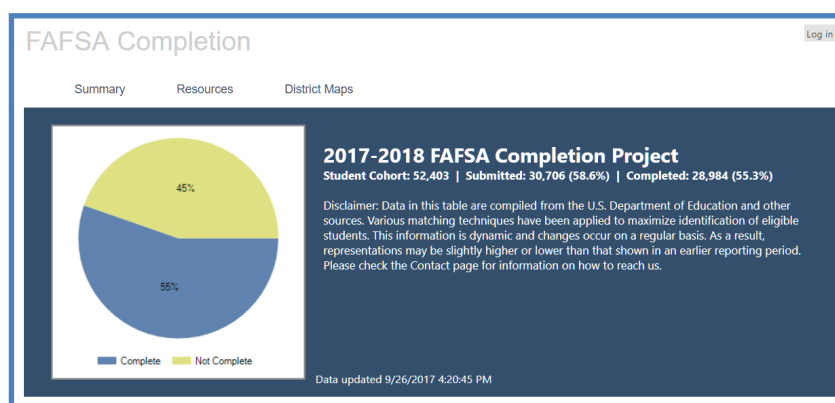
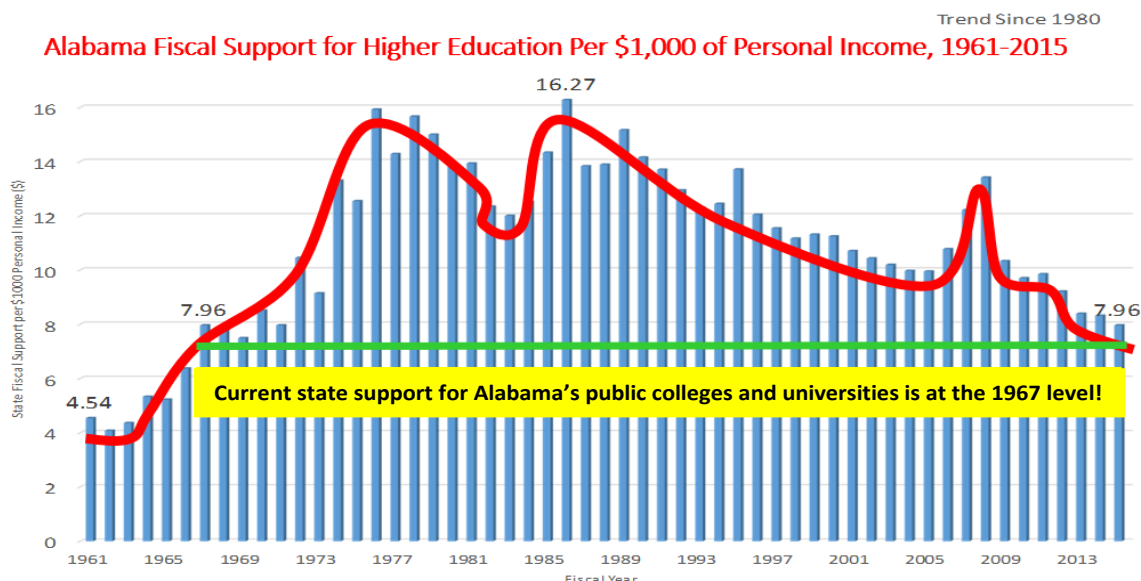


“We have enough people who tell it like it is—
now we could use a few who tell it like it can be.”

Robert Orben (born 1927)

Executive Director's Report

My first week on the job, I joined education panelists at a Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama meeting to discuss the future of education in Alabama. Based on ACHE data, we are trying to build a 21st century workforce at a 1967 funding level for higher education.



The financial stress of paying for college is prohibiting many students from pursuing a higher education degree. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed to determine if a student is eligible for a federal Pell Grant. ACHE has secured data from the U.S. Department of Education and created a website that will help local K-12 school districts assist students with FAFSA completions.

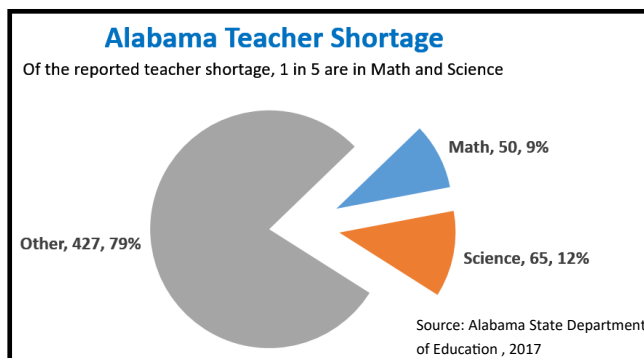
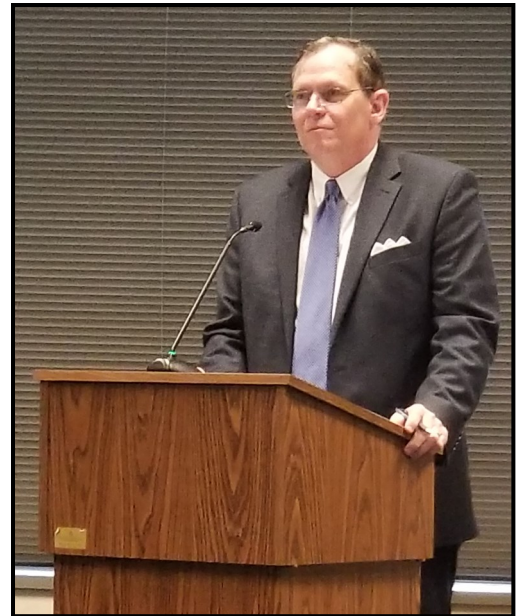
Another program that I have been involved with in other states is Complete College America, an initiative of states committed to significantly increasing the number of students successfully completing college. This summer Governor Ivey supported my request for Alabama to join the alliance which parallels her Strong Start, Strong Finish education plan. Membership includes access to resources to aid students in achieving degrees and credentials.



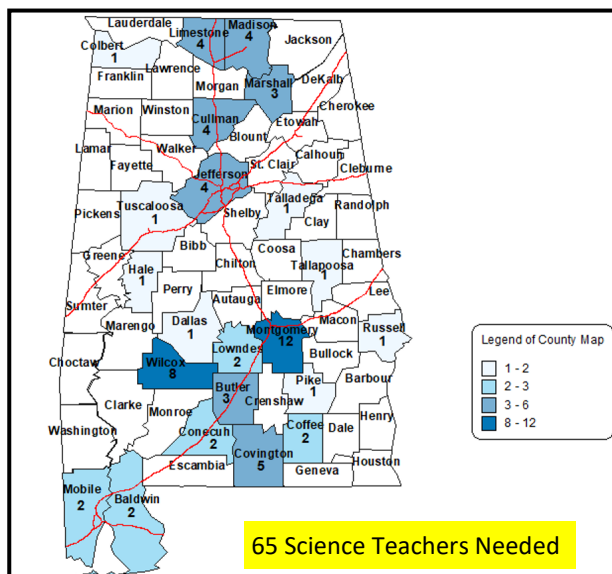
Executive Director's Report

I always have been a strong proponent for student success. In my first address to commissioners at the June meeting, I emphasized the minimal amount of state need-based financial aid that is available to students. I am continuing to advocate for lawmakers to increase the current \$2.8 million to apx. \$5.8 million for 2018.

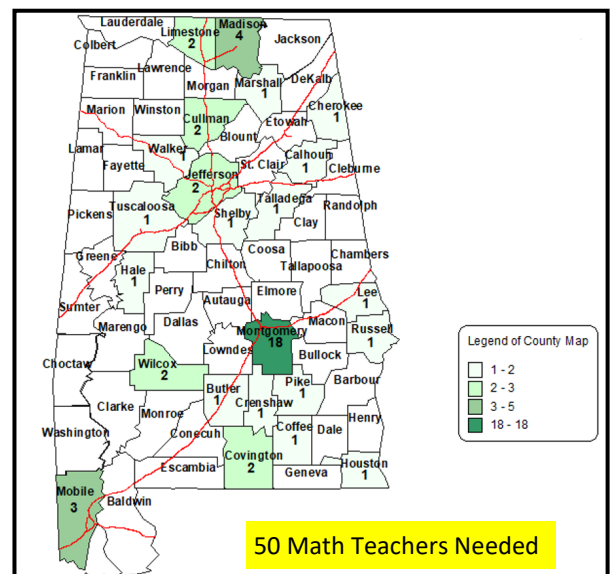
The state is making strides to ease the financial burden and increase the number of students planning to teach math or science., particularly in underserved areas of the state. During the 2017 legislative session, \$325,000 was allocated to ACHE for distribution through a Math and Science Scholarship program.



Shortage of Science Teachers



Shortage of Math Teachers





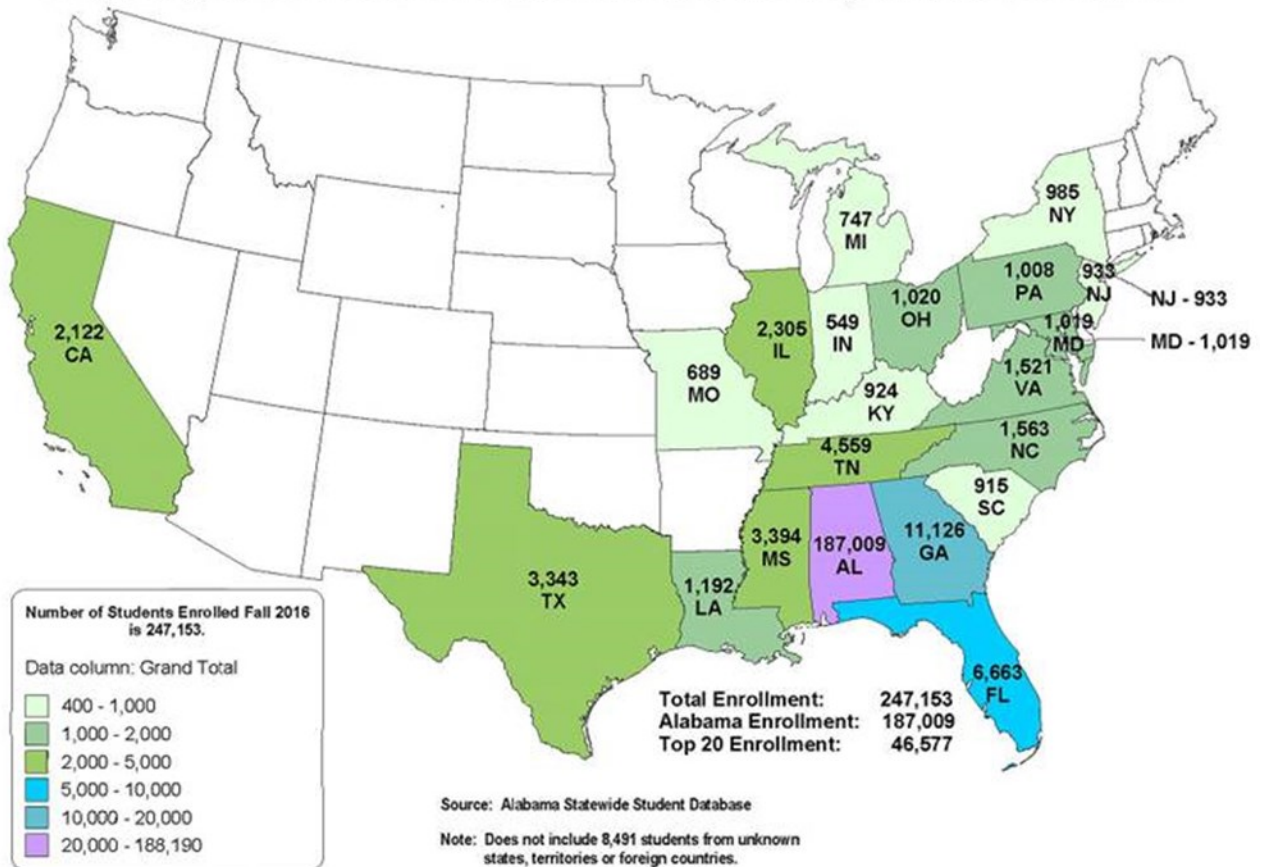
Research Services

Mrs. Subrena Simpkins
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(334) 242-2753

State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database)

The Research Services Unit collects, analyzes and reports on data from the Statewide Student Unit Record Data System. That data is used to create regional workforce brochures, as well as the annual Institutional Student Profiles. The coordination of all state and federal required data analysis and reporting is handled through this unit.

Fall 2016 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States





Student Unit Record Data System

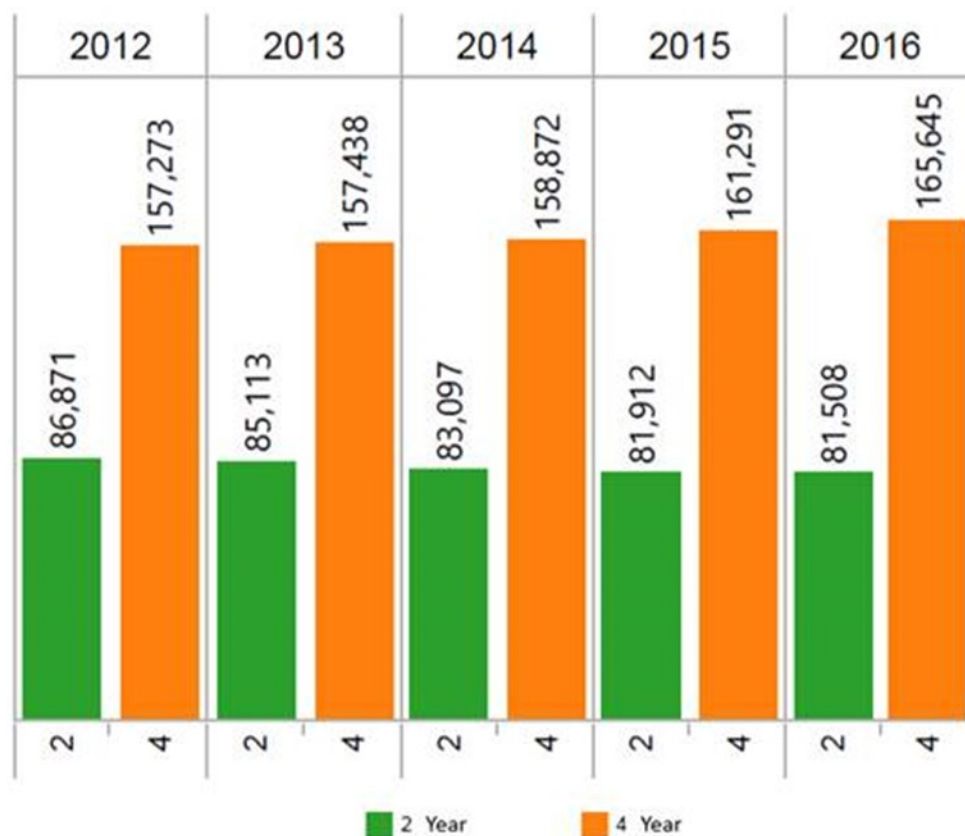
The Statewide Student Unit Record Data System collects enrollment and completions data records from all Alabama public institutions. As of Summer 2017, the database contained more than 11 million student records.

From these data, multiple reports are produced. Four of these reports, High School Feedback (including remediation), Student Retention and Graduation Rates, Transfer/Migration, and Tuition Residency are mandated by law to assist legislators, the governor and educators on educational issues.

All of the various reports produced from this data source are located on the ACHE website at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/StudentDB>.

Below is a historical summary of Fall enrollment for Alabama public institutions by sector:

Enrollment by Institution Type Fall 2012 – Fall 2016



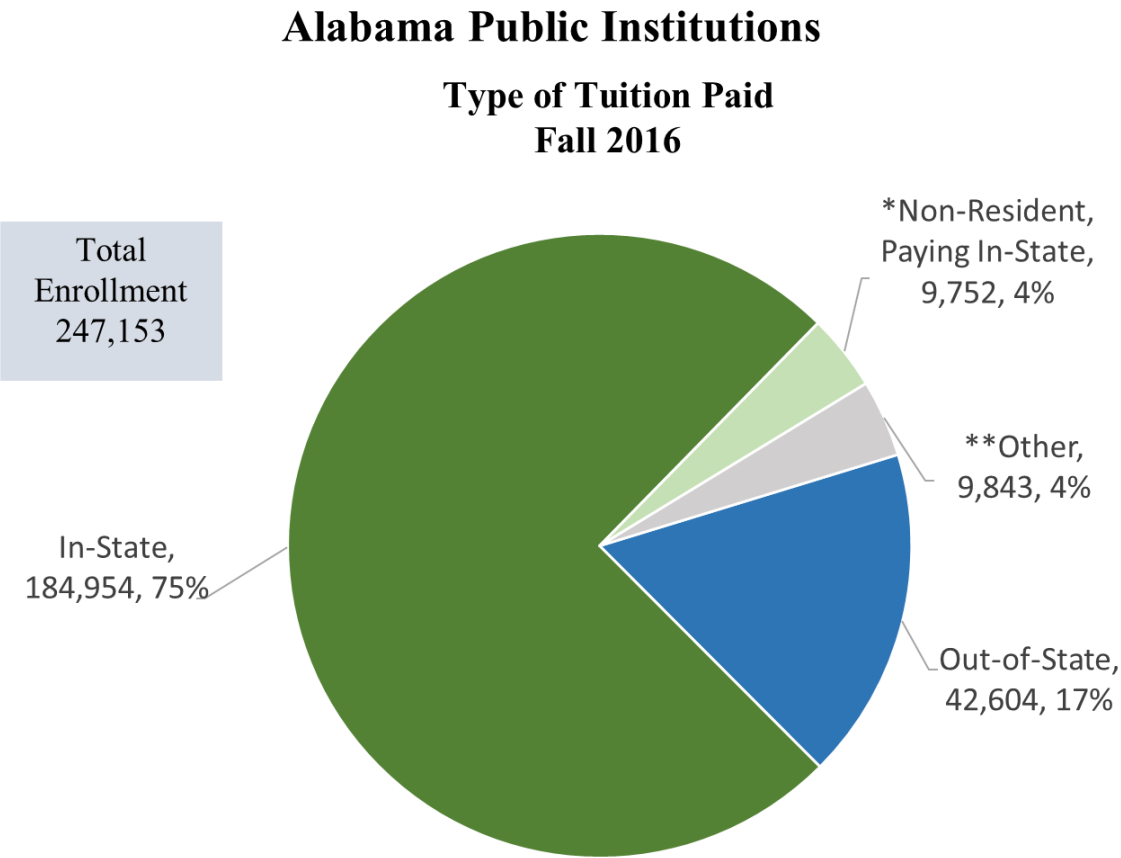
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Statistical Abstract

The Statistical Abstract section of the ACHE website includes additional reports that Research Services produces on Alabama’s public and private institutions. These reports contain information on student enrollment and completions, faculty salaries, financial aid, and tuition and fees.

<http://ache.edu/Content/AgencyRpt/Reports.aspx>.

The chart below shows the type of tuition paid at Alabama public institutions for Fall 2016:



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

*18.6% of out-of-state students pay in-state tuition.
 **Consortium and Distance Education students.



Institutional Student Profiles

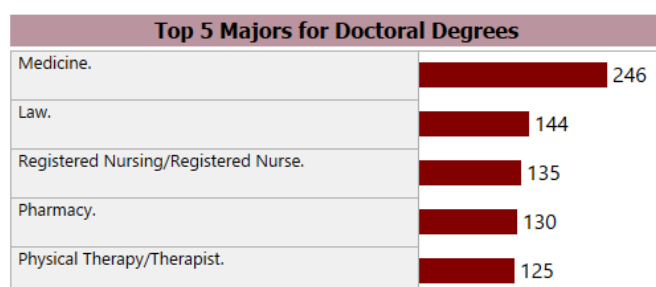
An electronic version of Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2016 can be found at www.ache.alabama.gov/Profiles. The web version provides links to the original sourcing reports and includes links to maps that offer added visual interpretation of this data.

Six of Alabama's independent institutions voluntarily provide term enrollment data to the student database, and these institutions are included in the Student Profiles: *Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Judson College,*

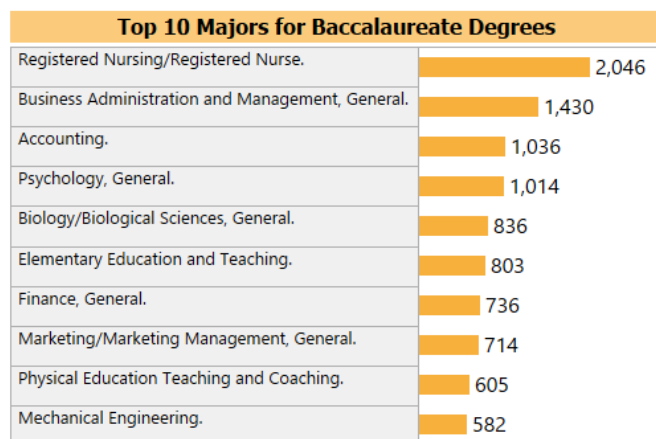
Spring Hill College, United States Sports Academy and *University of Mobile*. The inclusion of their data provides the state a more complete picture of higher education in Alabama.

Below is a chart included in Student Profiles depicting the top degrees conferred during the 2015-16 academic year for all public institutions. Business and industry constituents are especially interested in these types of data as they consider the potential workforce in the state.

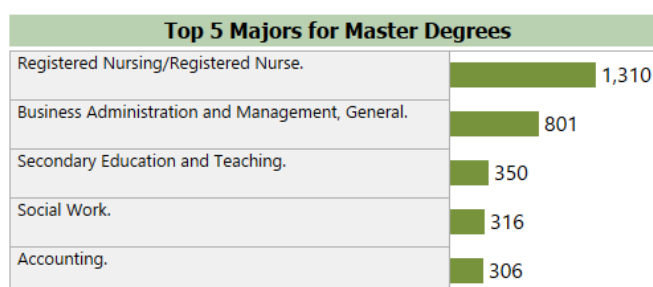
ACHE Summary of 2015-2016 Completions by Major and Level for All Public Institutions (Total Number of Completions at Alabama Public Institutions was 51,779)*



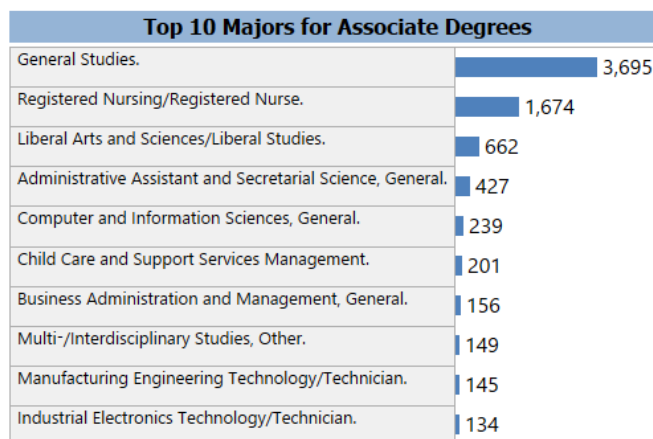
Number of doctoral degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 1,913.



Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 23,276.



Number of master degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 8,696.



Number of associate degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 9,722.

*The total number of completions includes other award levels that are not depicted in these charts.

SOURCE: Alabama Statewide Student Database.



State and Federal Data Requirements

The Commission is designated as the state coordinator of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) data for Alabama's public and private institutions. Under provisions of this federal mandate, Research Services reviews certain information from each institution of higher education and submits reports throughout the year to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) as required by law. The scope of each report is determined by the federal government and may vary from year to year. Principal report topics include the following: *institutional characteristics, human resources, student enrollment, student completions, outcome measures, student financial aid, graduation rates and institutional financial reports.*

Data Collaboration throughout the State

This year we worked with the non-profit group Alabama Possible to provide information on students ages 25 - 64 from specific counties in the state enrolled in Alabama public institutions with some college no degree.



In support of the Governor's Executive Order #6 – the Longitudinal Data System (LDS), ACHE staff members were appointed to serve on the Planning and Implementation Committee. Other committee members included representation from the Department of Children's Affairs, the State Department of Education, the Alabama Community College System, the four-year public and independent colleges and universities, the Department of Labor and the Regional Workforce Development Councils of Alabama. The committee was charged with discussing the data relevant to student progress from early learning through postsecondary into employment. The LDS bill did not pass in the 2017 legislative session, but ACHE staff are continuing data discussions with other entities as part of the Governor's Advisory Board and the Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee.

An information request on study abroad students was made to the department by Study Alabama: A Consortium for Global Engagement and Economic Development. To get the information requested, the staff created a survey to collect the number of study abroad students at the Alabama public four-year institutions.

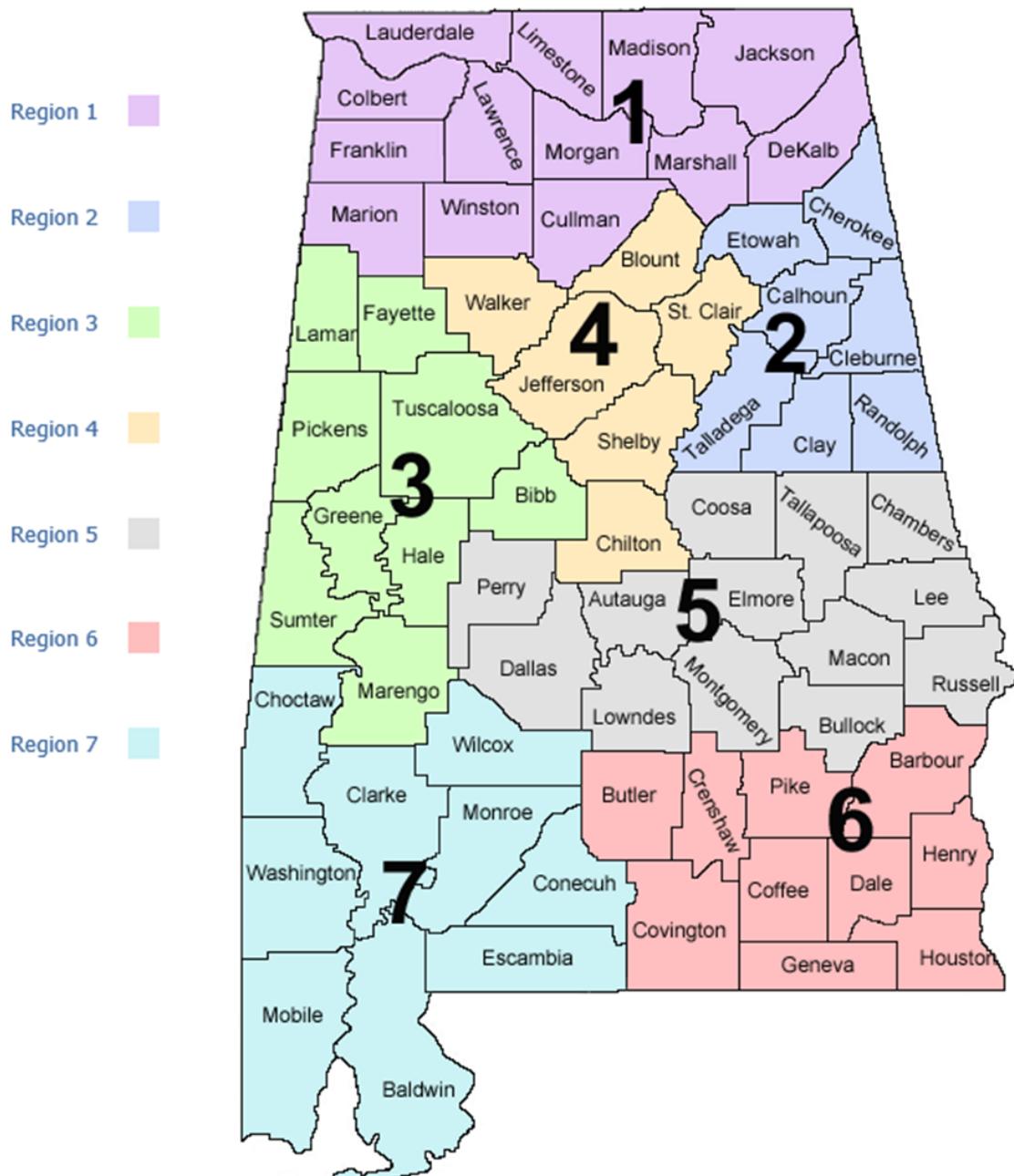
Study Alabama



Workforce Brochures

Effective October 1, 2016, the 10 workforce regions were reorganized into seven regions. Research Services' staff reformatted and updated workforce brochures for individual workforce regions identifying top areas of enrollment and completions by major. These brochures are available and can be printed online at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Workforce>. A statewide brochure is also available for easy comparison to individual workforce regions.

Workforce by Region





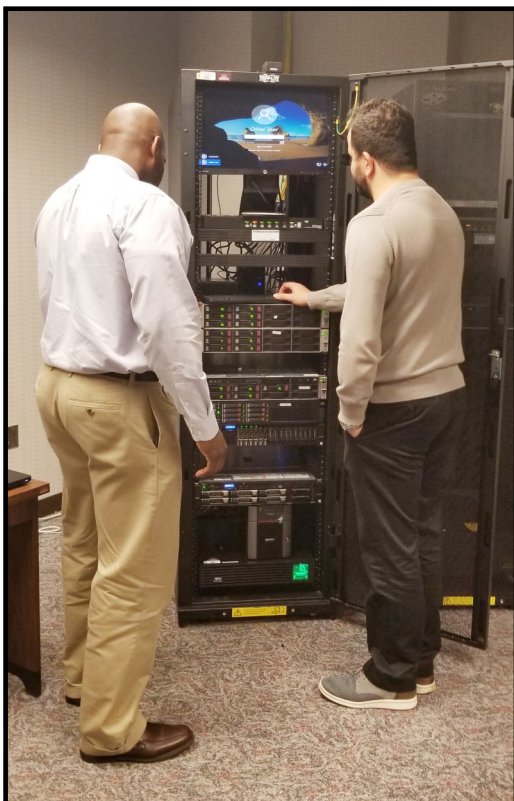
Technology Services

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(334) 242-2207

During the past year, Technology Services has implemented computer-processing changes to improve the operation of the agency. Computer upgrades to the latest Windows 10 and Microsoft Office versions and the latest server operating system are allowing faster reporting for agency departments.

The Commission website www.ache.alabama.gov is under revision to increase the use of dynamic versus static reports in an effort to make the site more user/mobile friendly. The website is averaging 25,000 hits with 2,500 educational documents being downloaded each month.

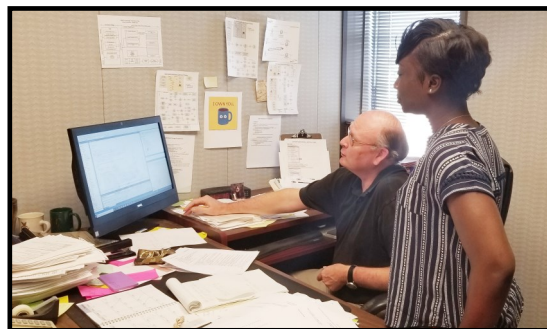
An upgrade on equipment is allowing for more automation and quicker turn around time for reporting.



Michael Clemons and Christian Balin monitor server performance.

The data backup system was expanded to include real-time server replication to ensure data/system recovery from both a hardware and software failure standpoint.

Ongoing work includes the support of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries Database Management System and reports for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. These reports are required under a grant from the federal government as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. They include feedback on public high school graduates that enrolled in institutions of higher education and the progress they made within a specific period. In addition, ACHE developed high school data



Stephen Mims and Nikesha Ross review program applications.

upload feeds for the Alabama State Department of Education to satisfy required data feeds to the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Risk Management Framework, the federal cybersecurity standard, is being continuously reviewed to meet Alabama's Office of Information Technology mandates to safeguard the state's information and information systems. This effort includes additional safeguards to ensure protection of student data. ACHE staff received their first annual security briefing in 2017.

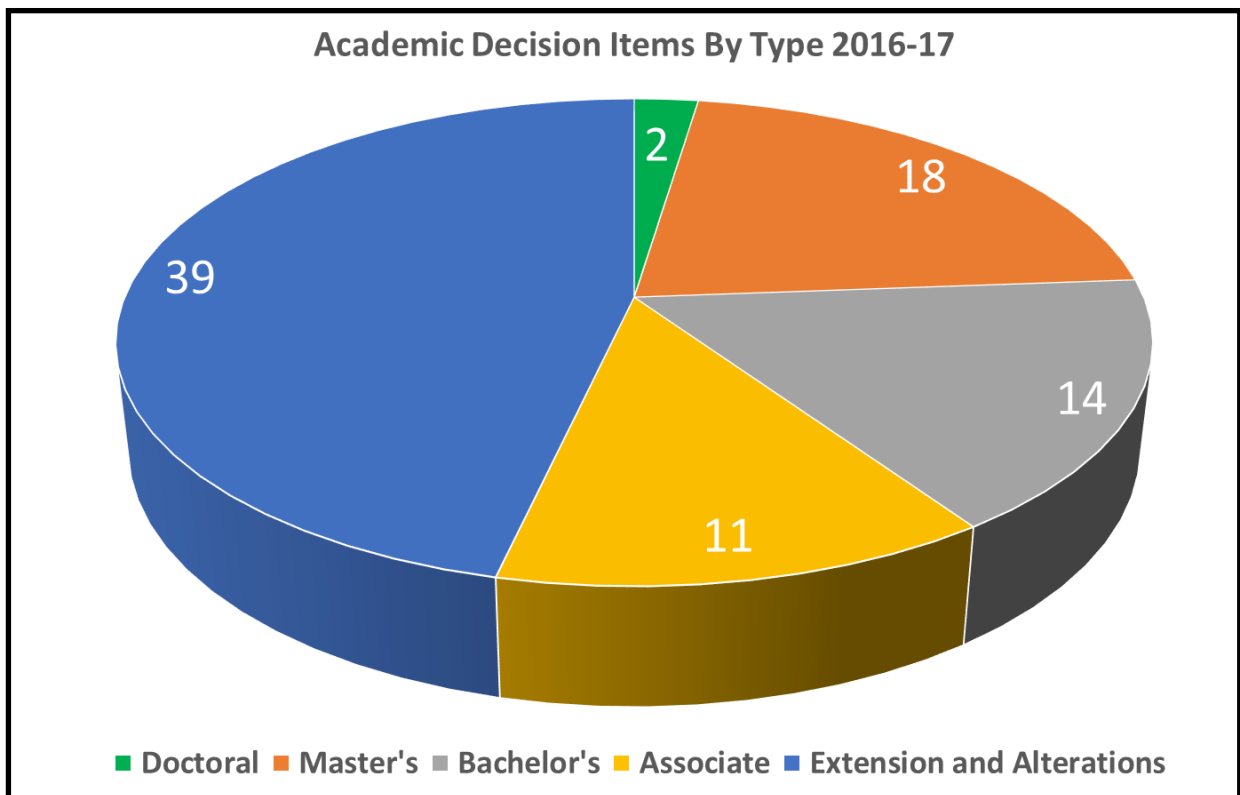
Instructional Activities

Dr. Leonard Lock
leonard.lock@ache.alabama.gov
(334) 242-2104

The Commission's instructional staff reviewed and prepared staff recommendations in support of the Commission's statutory responsibility for units of instruction. These activities included the review of proposed new programs and units of instruction in accordance with the Commission's policies on instructional role and program review. In addition, the staff evaluated proposed changes to existing units of instruction and maintained the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. The staff also reviewed new program post-implementation reports, particularly as they related to program enrollments, number of graduates, program assessment of student learning outcomes and graduate's success in

attaining employment related to the program field of study. These were prepared for both the four-year universities and in working collaboratively with the staff of the Alabama Community College System, two-year institutions.

In total for 2017, 230 instructional activities were brought forward to the Commission for decisions or as information items. During the previous year, there were 275 such items. One major contributor to this difference was regarding the lower number of short certificates this year. More detailed instructional activities information is provided on the following pages.





Instructional Activities

New Academic Programs at Universities

By statute the Commission on Higher Education is given the responsibility of approving new units of instruction, including new academic programs. The Commission reviewed and approved 45 proposals for new programs, 34 at senior institutions and 11 at two-year institutions. One institution (Auburn University) submitted 11 program proposals that were approved by the Commission, while nine were approved for the University of Alabama. By degree level, there were two Doctoral, 18 Master's, 14 Bachelor's, and 11 Associate/Certificates.

Among the most notable new programs approved this fiscal year was the Clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy by The University of Alabama at Birmingham. This program is designed to provide advanced educational and clinical opportunities for Occupational Therapy (OT) practitioners. The program's objectives are to develop knowledge and skills to improve health care for persons with functional limitations that influence their occupational performance or everyday living skills, and to improve the health, well-being and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities.

Auburn University

- MA in Counseling Psychology
- MS in Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- BS in Applied Biotechnology
- BS in Industrial Design Studies
- BS in Agricultural Science
- BS in Geospatial and Environmental Informatics
- BS in Professional Flight
- BS in Aviation Management
- MS in Architecture
- MEM in Engineering Management
- MSN in Nursing

Auburn University at Montgomery MSN in Nursing

Jacksonville State University

- BS in Forensic Investigation
- MSN in Nursing

Troy University

- MS in Kinesiology

University of Alabama

- PhD in Geography
- JM with Concentration in Taxation
- MA in Religion in Culture
- MS in Human Nutrition
- MS in Rural Community Health
- MA in Instructional Technology
- MPH in Health Education and Promotion
- MS in Consumer Sciences
- BFA in Theatre



Instructional Activities

New Academic Programs at Universities . . . *(continued)*

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- MS in Instructional Design and Development
- BS in Medical Sociology
- BS in Business Administration in International Business
- OTD Clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy

University of Montevallo

- BS in Computer Informatics

University of North Alabama

- BSE in Early Childhood Education
- MAEd in Early Childhood Education

University of West Alabama

- MEd in Learning, Design, and Technology
- BS in General Science
- BBA in Quantitative Finance and Econometrics

New Academic Programs at Two-Year Institutions

Bevill State Community College

- AAS in Business

Calhoun Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Automotive Technology

Jefferson State Community College

- AAS in Respiratory Therapy

Lawson State Community College

- AAS in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

L. B. Wallace Community College

- AAS in Diesel and Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Shelton State Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Salon and Spa Management

Snead State Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Powerplant Technology
- AAS and Certificate in Airframe Technology
- Certificate in Avionics Technology

Southern Union State Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Medical Assistant Technology

Trenholm State Community College

- AAS in Respiratory Therapy



Instructional Activities

Distance Education Programs Implemented by Alabama Public Institutions

Commission policy states that academic programs approved by the Commission do not require additional approval to be configured and offered as distance education programs. However, institutions preparing to offer existing programs as distance education offerings must report this intent to the Commission prior to implementation. The following institutions notified the Commission of a total of eight new distance education programs

Alabama A&M University

- Logistics & Supply Chain Management, BS

Auburn University at Montgomery

- Business & Management, MBA

Troy University

- Secondary Education, MS

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Nutrition Sciences, MS
- General Science, BGS
- Criminal Justice, MSCJ
- Interdisciplinary Engineering, PhD
- Criminal Justice, BS



Instructional Activities

Other Instructional Changes

The Commission reviewed and approved 39 extensions and alterations to existing programs. Thirteen institutions (nine universities and four two-year colleges) requested these changes.

Alabama A&M University

- Addition of a Concentration in Cybersecurity to the Existing BS in Computer Science
- Addition of a Concentration in Logistics & Supply Chain Management to the Existing BS in Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Addition of a Concentration in Management to the Existing BS in Business Management & Administration
- Addition of Concentrations in Urban Planning and Design and Transportation Management to the Existing BS in Urban and Regional Planning
- Addition of a Specialization in Ambient Energy Systems to the Existing MS in Physics
- Addition of a Specialization in Ambient Energy Systems to the Existing PhD in Applied Physics
- Addition of a Concentration in Criminal Justice to the Existing BS in Criminal Justice
- Addition of a Concentration in Political Science to the Existing BA in Political Science
- Addition of a Concentration in Sociology to the Existing BA in Sociology

Athens State University

- Addition of an Option in Health Care Administration to the Existing BS in Health Science

Auburn University

- Addition of Options in Marine Resources Management, Pre-Professional, and Fisheries and Aquaculture to the Existing BS in Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences
- Addition of Options in Culinary Science, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Event Management to the Existing BS in Hospitality Management
- Alteration of the PharmD in Pharmacy
- Addition of a Pre-Professional Option to the Existing MS in Biological Sciences - Non-Thesis
- Establishment of the Department of Aviation within the University College
- Alteration of the PhD in Fisheries
- Alteration of the PhD in Agronomy and Soils

Enterprise State Community College

- Addition of a Certificate in Legal Assistant/Paralegal to the Existing AAS in Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Jacksonville State University

- Academic Reorganization
- Addition of a Traditional Concentration to the Existing BS in Mathematics



Instructional Activities

Other Instructional Changes . . . (continued)

L. B. Wallace Community College

- Addition of Options in Industrial Systems and Electromechanical to the Existing AAS in Industrial Electronics

Southern Union Community College

- Addition of a Certificate in Business Management and Supervision to the Existing AAS in Business Management and Supervision

University of Alabama

- Addition of a Concentration in Production to the Existing BACIS in Creative Media
- Addition of a Concentration in Sports Media to the Existing BACIS in News Media
- Addition of Concentrations in Clinical Nurse Leader and Nurse Case Manager to the Existing MSN in Nursing
- Addition of a Concentration in Social Media Marketing to the Existing MS in Marketing
- Addition of a Concentration in Value Investing to the Existing BSCBA in Banking and Finance
- Addition of a Concentration in Nurse Education to the Existing EdD in Instructional Leadership
- Addition of Concentrations in Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation to the Existing BS in Environmental Science

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Addition of a Health Informatics Track to the Existing PhD in Administration/Health Services
- Addition of an Option in Applied Professional Spanish to the Existing BA in Foreign Languages
- Addition of an Ethics Track to the Existing BA in Philosophy

University of Montevallo

- Addition of Concentrations in Allied Health and Strength and Conditioning to the BS in Kinesiology

University of North Alabama

- Addition of a Concentration in Sales and New Business Development to the Existing MBA in Business Management and Administration
- Addition of an Emphasis in Resource Management to the Existing BS in Sport and Recreation Management

University of West Alabama

- Addition of a Track in Publishing to the Existing BA/BS in English
- Addition of Options (6) to the Existing MBA in Business Administration
- Addition of a Concentration in Military History to the Existing BA/BS in History

Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)

- Addition of a Certificate in Child Development to the Existing AAS in Child Development



Instructional Activities

Information Items

The Commission recognized 31 changes to the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. These included changes in program name, degree nomenclature, taxonomy code number and/or program status. The Commission accepted information items concerning the implementation of 31 short certificates at two-year colleges and 24 non-degree programs at universities.

The Commission also accepted the following 28 as information items, in accordance with Commission policy.

Auburn University

- Establishment of an Educational Complex in Gulf Shores, AL

Auburn University at Montgomery

- Department of Justice and Public Safety to the Department of Criminal Justice

Jacksonville State University

- Establishment of the Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement
- Change in the Name of the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences to the Department of Chemistry and Geosciences

Troy University

- Establishment of the Center for Public Service
- Department of Social Work and Human Services to the School of Social Work and Human Services

University of Alabama

- **Change** in the Name of the Department of Criminal Justice to the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- **Establishment** of the Remote Sensing Center (RSC)
- **Establishment** of the Transportation Policy Research Center (TPRC)
- **Establishment** of the Alabama Life Research Institute (ALRI)
- **Establishment** of the Alabama Transportation Institute (ATI)
- **Establishment** of the Alabama Water Institute



Instructional Activities

Information Items . . . (continued)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Establishment of the Center for Teaching and Learning
- Establishment of the INTO UAB Center and a Change in the Name of the English Language Institute (ELI) to English Language Programs (ELP)
- Establishment of the Vulcan Materials Academic Success Center
- Change in the Name of the Department of Computer and Information Sciences to the Department of Computer Science
- Establishment of the STEM Education Center
- Establishment of the Division of Genomic Diagnosis and Bioinformatics in the Department of Pathology in the School of Medicine

University of Alabama in Huntsville

- Change in the Name of the Department of Physics to the Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Merger of the School of Graduate Studies and The Office of International Engagement
- Change in the Name of the College of Business Administration to the College of Business

University of Montevallo

- Addition of a Foreign Language Certification in Spanish to the Existing Alternative M.Ed. In Secondary Education
- Change in the Name of the Department of Counseling, Family and Consumer Science and Kinesiology to the Department of Health And Human Sciences

University of North Alabama

- Establishment of the Center for the Study of Sport and Recreation
- Establishment of the Center for the Study of Exercise Science and Health Promotion

University of South Alabama

- Change in the Name of the College of Education to the College of Education and Professional Studies
- Change in the Name of the Department of Professional Studies to the Department of Counseling and Instructional Sciences
- Department, Integrative Studies, within the College of Education and Professional Studies



Instructional Activities

Off-Campus Instruction

The Commission reviewed five items concerning the delivery of off-campus instruction.

Auburn University at Montgomery

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site: Montgomery Chamber Business Resource Center

Jacksonville State University

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site: Brookstone Center – Jacksonville, Alabama

Snead State Community College

New Exempt Off-Campus Site: Alabama Aviation Center at Albertville – Albertville, Alabama

University of South Alabama

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site: Hoover High School - Hoover, Alabama
- New Exempt Off-Campus Site: Saraland High School - Saraland, Alabama



Instructional Activities

Programs Deleted by Public Institutions

Public institutions submitted requests to delete nineteen degree programs from the Academic Program Inventory. Programs may be deleted because of enrollment or graduation rates that fall below expected levels for the program. Other reasons for deletion are because of a realignment of institutional priorities in response to budget constraints, changes in the discipline or because of accreditation requirements.

Alabama A&M University

- Interdisciplinary Studies, BA/BS

Bishop State Community College

- Funeral Service, AAS
- Civil Engineering Technology, AAS

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

- Homeland Security, C

Drake State Community & Technical College

- Cosmetology, C
- Accounting Technology, C/AAS
- Office Administration, C/AAS

Reid State Technical College

- Medical Assisting, AAT
- Auto Body Repair, C

Troy University

- Electronics Engineering Technology, BAS

University of Alabama

- Latin American Studies, BA, MA
- Computer Science, BS
- Counselor Education, EdD
- Early Childhood Education, BSEd
- Healthcare Management, BS, BSCBA
- Educational Administration, PhD
- Educational Administration, EdD

University of Alabama in Huntsville

- Contract Mgt & Procurement/Purchasing, BSBA

University of South Alabama

- Cyber Assurance, BSCA



Institutional Finance & Facilities

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Consolidated Budget Recommendation

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/InstFinance/CBR/CBR2017.pdf>

The Commission receives, evaluates and coordinates budget requests for the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. A single consolidated budget report, containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions, is presented annually to the Governor and Legislature. The recommendation by the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures calculated through the use of comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Consolidated Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Consolidated Budget Recommendation Alabama Public Higher Education Institutions	
INSTITUTION	2017-2018 Recommendation
Alabama A&M University	40,176,747
Alabama State University	45,093,443
Athens State University	13,042,852
Auburn University	242,981,091
Auburn University Montgomery	24,144,665
Jacksonville State University	40,119,337
Troy University	51,768,528
University of Alabama	162,578,140
University of Alabama at Birmingham	282,287,384
University of Alabama in Huntsville	50,224,909
University of Montevallo	20,767,059
University of North Alabama	29,595,554
University of South Alabama	112,648,954
University of West Alabama	16,954,161
Total Senior Institutions	1,132,382,824
Two Year Institutions	325,341,762
Total All Institutions	1,457,724,586

The total amount recommended for the two- and four-year public institutions for FY 2017-18 was \$1,457,724,586. The total amount recommended for all higher education by the Commission for FY 2017-18 was \$1,644,407,718. This recommendation was adopted at the Commission's December 9, 2016 meeting.



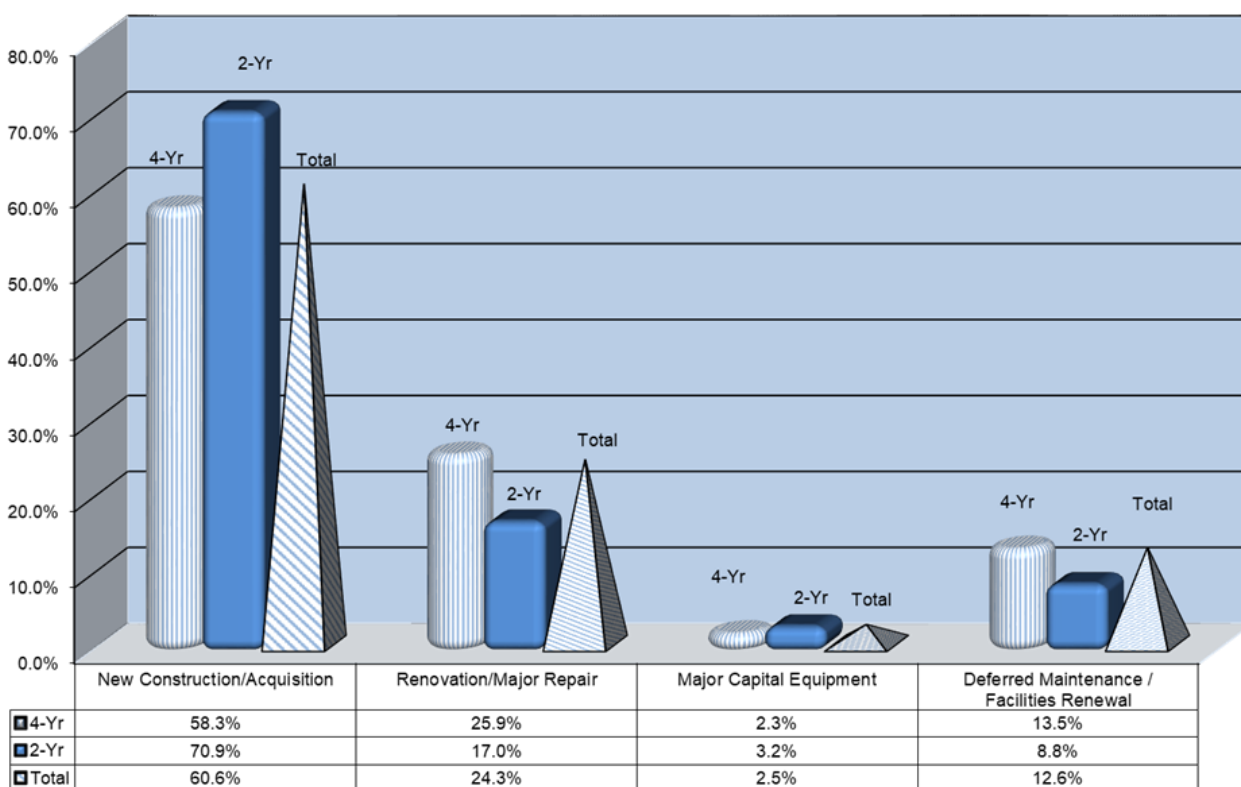
Institutional Finance & Facilities

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/InstFinance/FMP/2018-2022/FMP2018-2022.pdf>

Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests report for the period covering FY 2018-22 was presented at the December 9, 2016 Commission meeting. A total of \$4,586,287,622 was requested by the two- and four-year public institutions to cover the projected capital projects for this five-year period. Included in the report is a summary table, showing the general obligation bonds that have been issued by the institutions. As of September 30, 2016, the institutions had \$3,311,209,649 in Bonded Indebtedness and paid \$494,544,596 in Debt Service on these bonds.

Total Capital Requirements by Category FY 2017-2018 - 2021-2022





State Authorization for Non-Resident Institutions

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Under provisions of Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975) no institution of postsecondary education located outside of Alabama may offer units or programs of instruction within Alabama without prior approval of the Commission. While the Commission has programmatic review oversight of these institutions, it does not have licensing authority. The licensure of private institutions of higher education in Alabama, whether resident or non-resident, resides with the Division of Licensure of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Alabama is the only state, within the United States, where private school licensure and programmatic review of degree granting non-resident institutions of higher education is divided between two state agencies, ACCS and the Commission.

As of September 30, 2017 more than 26,000 Alabama residents were enrolled in one or more of the 3,586 programs offered by private, proprietary institutions operating in the state as foreign corporations in accord with state authorization. Forty-three institutions have on-site operations in Alabama.

The scope of activity associated with the Commission's programmatic oversight as a component of state authorization includes:

- 1) processing applications for initial and renewal for programmatic approval;
- 2) conducting site visits for on-site locations;
- 3) terminating institutions that no longer qualify for state authorization;
- 4) monitoring institutional compliance with ACCS licensure;
- 5) executing teach-out agreements and monitoring the progress of Alabama residents enrolled in institutions in the process of closure;
- 6) maintaining inventories for the 187 active institutions as well as archival records for more than 800 schools.



State Authorization for Non-Resident Institutions

Most notable of events occurring during the past year involved the catastrophic closing and bankruptcy of ITT technical institutions. The Commission maintained a list serve of more than 100 Alabama students who were impacted by the ITT closure. The most damage was suffered by nursing students enrolled in the campuses in Huntsville, Bessemer, and Mobile who had completed coursework for degrees, but had not received official transcripts work completed and thus were not qualified to sit for licensure exams. Retrieval of records from these sites is still pending.

With the U. S. Department of Education's withdrawal of recognition of the accrediting agency, Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), a number of institutions impacted by the loss of ACICS accreditation were either forced to close or are operating under USDE provisional program participation agreements until such time as accreditation with another agency is acquired.

The challenge to the Commission's jurisdiction in the state authorization process occurred as a result of events related to *A Petition for Rehearing of the Alabama Commission on Higher*

Education's January 27, 2017 Determinations as to Fortis College Branch Campuses filed by Education Affiliates, Inc., Capps College, Inc., and Career Consultants, Inc. Pursuant to the rehearing conducted on May 17, the Appeal's Committee of the Commission accepted the recommendation issued by the Administrative Law Judge and ratified the *Recommended Order on Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law*, which affirmed the Commission's decision to deny approval for three programs: Electrical Trades (Montgomery); Pharmacy Technology (Dothan) and Nursing (Montgomery/Eastdale).

An inventory of the active non-resident degree and non-degree granting institutions under the jurisdiction of the Commission is available on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/NRI/NRI-Pvt-NonDegree-Inventory.pdf>.

Programmatic Profiles of Non-Resident Private Degree Granting Institutions are available at:

<http://ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/NRI/2015-Program-Profiles.pdf>.



Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)

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The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) is a consortium of public and private four-year schools and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. Since it was established over thirty years ago to eliminate disparities between schools offering graduate education, it has broadened its mission to coordinate academic library resource sharing to enhance education and research for all of higher education.

Database licensing, including both the licensing of resources and price negotiation, is the primary means by which NAAL achieves its mission. Thirty-two vendors make eighty-seven resources, including databases, e-journals and e-books, available to the twenty-seven members that participate in the program. By participating in group subscriptions to resources, the members

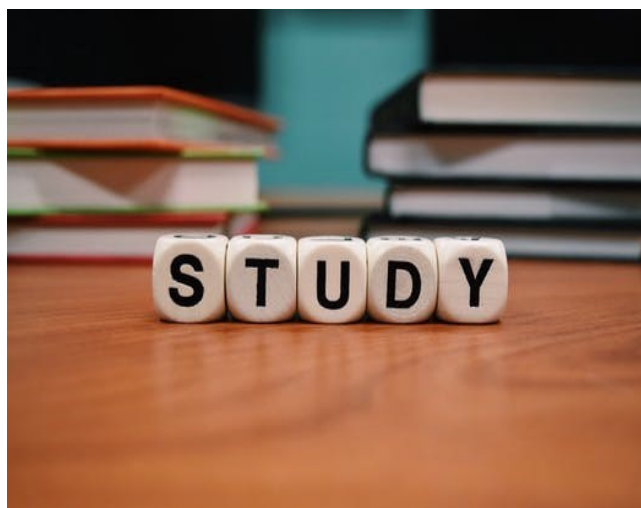
of NAAL enjoy discounts ranging from five percent (5%) to over 50%, with an overall average of more than 11%. For subscriptions totaling almost \$9,752,293.53, the savings was \$1,113,351.96. Considering NAAL's entire budget is just \$301,248, the return-on-investment (ROI) is over three to one, and that is just one of the many programs and services the Network provides. FY 2016-17 budget woes hit academic libraries through level-funding or cuts ranging from two percent (2%) to 16%. However, vendors agreed to flat or discounted pricing to libraries experiencing significant cuts. Additionally, the network spent \$48,812 to subsidize the cost of a suite of databases and online services called FirstSearch for its members.



Besides providing database licensing for its members, NAAL provides the same service pro bono for the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL.) Journals, newspapers and books that lined the shelves of brick-and-mortar libraries are now available online 24/7. The AVL was an early adopter of Geo-IP authentication, which allows most citizens access to the e-resources by simply going to the AVL's URL. There are thirty-seven commercial databases and hundreds of e-books that are free to AVL users. The cost of the resources, \$2,420,760.92, is a small fraction of their worth. An AVL vendor said if all the academic, public and school libraries in the state purchased the vendor's e-resources individually, the cost would be \$35,422,352.

The AVL differs from other states, in that it does not have a paid staff, but is governed by volunteers on the AVL Council. Higher education was well represented on the Council during FY 2017 by three ACHE-appointed representatives from the institutions: Mr. John-Bauer Graham of Jacksonville State University, Dr. Melvin Davis of the University of North Alabama and Dr. Charlotte Ford of the University of Montevallo. Throughout the year, Dr. Davis, who served as AVL treasurer and NAAL director, worked in tandem to convince the AVL's vendors to either lower their prices or provide level pricing. As a result, five of the vendors agreed to provide level pricing, which was a cost avoidance of \$30,000 to \$60,000. Another vendor agreed to lower its annual price increase from five percent (5%) to two and a half percent (2.5%), generating a savings of almost \$20,000. The Council also subscribed to a STEM reference database called Access Science, which is applicable to high school, college and university students.

Another way the network fulfills its mission is by facilitating the sharing of library materials between members. This is accomplished by covering the cost when one member loans a book, CD, or similar hard-copy item to another member and uses our ground courier service, UPS. This service provides Alabama's students, faculty members and researchers the ability to borrow materials, rather than having to pay commercial businesses to buy or rent them. Since signing a new contract with the company last year, the Network has been able to migrate all of the main libraries and some universities' branch libraries to UPS' CampusShip service. Simultaneously, it has cut its expenses by over \$20,000. Part of the cost savings is attributable to Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and librarian's efficient use of the service.





Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)

AlabamaMosaic, the NAAL digital repository for highlighting the history and culture of the state, is available at no charge to Alabama's archives, museums and other cultural heritage institutions. The only requirement is that they own the copyright to digital items and agree to let students use the images for non-profit purposes. Currently, AlabamaMosaic indexes 331 distinct collections from 45 institutions and organizations. Within the last year, approximately 18,000 digital objects were added, bringing the total number to over 197,000.

Some of the new partners include Autauga County Heritage Association, Cullman County Historical Society, Daphne Museum and Selma Public Library.

In addition to providing a single repository for digital collections spread across the state, NAAL provides a low-cost permanent preservation service for digital content called Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet.) By geographically distributing digital content on multiple servers across the state, ADPNet members need not worry if one or two sites go down. Another plus is the fact that it runs on award-

winning open source software. ADPNet's membership started with academic libraries, but has grown to include two public library systems in Alabama. This unique feature has brought worldwide attention to ADPNet among digital preservation networks.

The ADPNet steering committee began FY 2017 with two strategic goals: to get sufficient numbers of preservation nodes in the network for polling purposes and to communicate value through reporting. Measurable progress has been made toward achieving those goals.

1800's Autauga County Gin House is part of AlabamaMosaic's digital repository

*Courtesy of Daniel Pratt/Continental Gin Company Collection,
Autauga County Heritage Association, Prattville, Alabama*





Alabama Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ALEPSCoR)

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The ALEPSCoR Program is dedicated to the advancement of economic development via scientific and engineering research through a collaborative effort among the state's research universities. The focus of activities is designed to attract and retain distinguished scientists and researchers for Alabama; to develop new cutting-edge technologies, companies and opportunities; and to stimulate state competitiveness in medicine, biotechnology, engineering, mathematics, and other applied sciences. In FY 2016, Alabama's investment in the ALEPSCoR Program led to over \$11.1 million in new federal awards being brought into the state and over \$11.5 million in federally funded research expenditures, as well as, the writing and submission of a \$20 million proposal to the National Science Foundation that was awarded in 2017.

Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP)

In addition to supporting statewide initiatives for research development and capacity building, the ALEPSCoR budget funds the ALEPSCoR Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP). The goals of the GRSP are to: attract high quality graduate students to Alabama's research universities; provide vital support for students performing research in those areas targeted by the state as high priority development areas; and increase the pool of highly trained Master's and Ph.D. graduates available to Alabama industry. The program has implemented twelve successful rounds of competitive grant awards. Over 260 students have been supported with a state investment of over \$8.1 million to date with 17 new awardees beginning in August 2017. State support has assisted students in their achievement of 163 Ph.D. and 53 Master's degrees as of December 2017. This next generation of GRSP scholars, whose research topics range from biomedical and life sciences, to nano-materials and engineering, are destined to become Alabama's industrial and academic leaders of tomorrow.

The ALEPSCoR Annual Reports are available on the ALEPSCoR website and provide information on the research awards and research programs that are enhancing the infrastructure of the state. Also, nine GRSP brochures and annual reports that chronicle the accomplishments of ALEPSCoR to date and provide a historical reference to the ongoing work have been published and distributed to state and national audiences. The tenth GRSP report will be available in December 2017. Copies of the annual reports and GRSP reports are available at: <http://alepscor.org/reports/>.





U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Competitive Grant Program

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Background. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education administers the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) competitive grant partnership program for higher education institutions (Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) (ESEA) as amended and enacted in 2001, as part of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

The Title II program is the largest federal program that supports professional development activities to improve teaching and learning. Under this program funds are made available to State Educational Agencies (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), State Agencies for Higher Education (SAHEs), and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to support and help shape state and local professional development activities.

NCLB was authorized for five years. Continuing resolutions each year maintained the program until December 2015 when it was replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which, unlike NCLB, does not provide direct funding to SAHEs. However, the U. S. Department of Education provided a transition year for SAHEs through FY 2016-17 with funding ending in 2018. This additional year allows SAHEs to complete their NCLB program objectives. With the culmination of this extended program, ACHE published a *Fifteen Year Report: Alabama Higher Education Professional Development for K-12 Teachers* and presented it to ACHE Commissioners at the June 2017 meeting. Current project directors were present and recognized for their achievements. Of particular note was significant external support in addition to federal funding as shown in the following table:

ACHE NCLB federal and external funding, FY 2002-03 to FY 2016-17:

Fiscal Year	Federal Appropriation	External Support*	Total Funding
2002-2003	\$ 1,175,367	\$ 1,174,332	\$ 2,349,699
2003-2004	\$ 1,221,222	\$ 823,087	\$ 2,044,309
2004-2005	\$ 1,215,464	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,415,464
2005-2006	\$ 1,208,870	\$ 853,689	\$ 2,062,559
2006-2007	\$ 1,199,325	\$ 1,455,388	\$ 2,654,713
2007-2008	\$ 1,193,438	\$ 1,434,588	\$ 2,628,026
2008-2009	\$ 1,221,885	\$ 1,152,812	\$ 2,374,697
2009-2010	\$ 1,232,939	\$ 1,515,673	\$ 2,748,612
2010-2011	\$ 1,208,900	\$ 934,689	\$ 2,143,589
2011-2012	\$ 1,001,673	\$ 853,222	\$ 1,854,895
2012-2013	\$ 1,009,752	\$ 724,863	\$ 1,734,615
2013-2014	\$ 954,951	\$ 589,933	\$ 1,544,884
2014-2015	\$ 953,849	\$ 2,310,326	\$ 3,264,175
2015-2016	\$ 949,571	\$ 656,969	\$ 1,606,540
2016-2017	\$ 932,572	\$ 535,931	\$ 1,468,503
TOTAL	\$ 16,679,778	\$16,215,502	\$32,895,280

*Funds and in-kind support reported by projects



U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Competitive Grant Program

FY 2016-17 Continuation Awards. During this transition year funding for all projects was \$922,503. Eight Continuation Awards were issued to the six institutions which were recipients of FY 2015-16 grants. Single awards were issued to the following: Jacksonville State University (JSU), Troy University-Dothan Campus (TUD), the University of Alabama (UA), and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and the University of South Alabama (USA) each received two awards.

In addition to federal funding, external funding and in-kind support provided by the host institutions and school districts is estimated to be more than \$500,000. Funding partners are the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Southeast Center for Education in the Arts, Lowder Family Foundation, Caring Foundation and McWane Science Center, among others.

Professional Development. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the eight funded projects are providing professional development for an estimated 499 K-12 teachers, 35 administrators, and six para-professionals in 62 public school districts and 12 private schools. Participants are directly impacting more than 46,000 students in these school districts.

As required by NCLB legislation, each project serves one or more high-need school districts along with other districts across the state. They reported 40 of their participating teachers' public school districts are high-need.



School Districts with participants in FY 2016-17 ACHE NCLB projects:

Alabama School for the Blind	Department of Youth Services	Jacksonville City	Pell City
Alexander City	Dothan City	Jefferson County	Pike County
Baldwin County	Elmore County	Lauderdale County	Saint Clair County
Bessemer City	Escambia County	Leeds City	Scottsboro City
Bibb County	Fairfield City	Linden City	Selma City
Birmingham City	Fayette County	Macon County	Shelby County
Butler County	Geneva County	Madison County	Sylacauga City
Calhoun County	Greene County	Marengo County	Talladega County
Chilton County	Haleyville City	Marshall County	Tallapoosa County
Clarke County	Henry County	Midfield City	Trussville City
Coffee County	Homewood City	Mobile County	Tuscaloosa City
Cullman County	Hoover City	Monroe County	Tuscaloosa County
Covington County	Houston County	Montgomery County	Vestavia Hills City
Dale County	Huntsville City	Mountain Brook City	Washington County
Dallas County	Gadsden City	Muscle Shoals City	
DeKalb County	Geneva City	Pelham City	



U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Competitive Grant Program

Private Agencies/Districts/Schools with participants in FY 2016-17 ACHE NCLB projects:			
Abbeville Christian	Catholic Diocese of Birmingham	Jacksonville Home Schooling	Providence Christian
Alabama Christian Academy	Corpus Christi Catholic	Knollwood Christian School	Saint James School
Bayshore Christian School	Cottage Hill Christian Academy	Montgomery Academy	Success Unlimited



Additional Title II Information is available at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/NCLB>, including four summary reports of the USDE Title II professional development projects for K-12 teachers administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education from FY 1984-1985 to FY 2016-2017:

Four-Year Report: Education for Security Act 1984-1989

Six-Year Report: Alabama Higher Education Projects for K-12 Mathematics and Science - 1989-1995 (Title II: Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Program, PL 100-297)

Six-Year Report: Alabama Higher Education Professional Development Multi-Year Projects for K-12 Teachers - Fiscal Years: 1995-1996 through 2000-2001 (Title II: Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program, PL 103-382)

Fifteen-Year Report: Alabama Higher Education Professional Development for K-12 Teachers - Fiscal Years: 2002-2003 through 2016-2017 (Title II: No Child Left Behind Professional Development Program, PL 107-110)





Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (AGSC/STARS)

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[http://stars.troy.edu/reports/2016-2017 Annual Report.pdf](http://stars.troy.edu/reports/2016-2017%20Annual%20Report.pdf)

The AGSC was created by the Alabama Legislature in March 1994 (Act 94-202). The primary mission was to establish a statewide freshman and sophomore-level general studies curriculum to be taken at all public colleges and universities, and to develop and adopt a statewide articulation agreement for the freshman and sophomore years for the transfer of credit among all public institutions of higher education in Alabama. The STARS System allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice. This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through their first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama.

In 2016-17 over 76,000 official transfer guides were obtained by students and administrators through the STARS website. Since the fall of 1998, over 1.2 million transfer guides have been obtained by students and administrators through the STARS website. This program continues to save, time, money and credit for the college students of our state.





Alabama Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (ALWCAP)

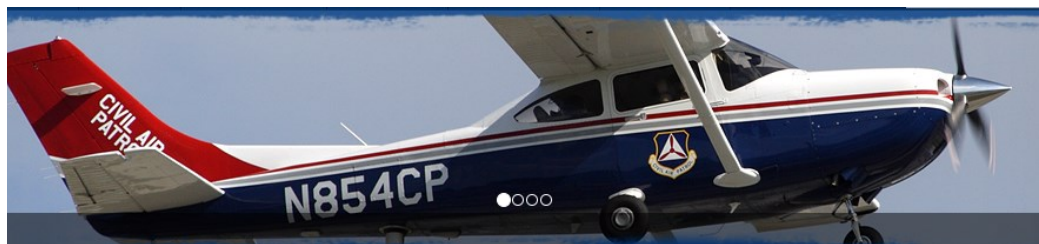
<http://alwg.us/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$75,000

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a long-time auxiliary of the United State Air Force. Its three-fold charter includes Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services. The Alabama Wing is one of 52 wings operating in the United States and its territories. Squadrons, or units, within each state form a wing. Alabama has 18 squadrons and one flight. The majority of those units are composite squadrons, which are composed of both cadets and adult members. Senior member squadrons have only adults and cadet squadrons are mostly cadets, with a couple of adult members supervising and directing. The Alabama Wing has three senior squadrons, one cadet squadron, with the balance being composite squadrons. More than 800 cadets make up about one-third of the total membership. Professional development and training emphasizing excellence are offered to both adult members and cadets in all three missions. Other activities conducted during this year were:

- Iron Man Competitions – These activities test member’s aerospace knowledge, physical endurance, leadership skills, character, teamwork drill, uniform standards and emergency services aptitude.

- Color Guard Academy – Cadets learn flag etiquette, presentation of Colors and posting of Colors. They also train in basic rifle guardsmen procedures and proper formations.
- Wreaths Across America – The goal of this activity is to place a wreath on every Veteran’s grave for the holiday season.
- Drug Demand Reduction – This instills “an aggressive, positive, drug-free attitude in CAP members, Air Force families, Department of Defense civilians and school age children through a comprehensive program that promotes CAP as a positive community service lifestyle, encourages youth to remain in school, focuses on drug abuse awareness, education, and prevention and provides positive activities as an alternative to drugs and gang violence”.
- Summer Encampment – The 2017 Summer Encampment was held at Fort McClellan in Anniston. Over 100 cadets attended.



Alabama Resource Conservation & Development Council (ARCDC)

<http://alabamarcd.org/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$1,587,744

The purpose of the funds appropriated to the ARCDC is to assist in the coordination of the activities of Alabama's nine regional Resource Conservation and Development Councils and to speak for and promote the activities of the regional councils in Alabama and on the national level. A list of the 238 projects (FY 2016-17), for all nine regional councils, can be found in the ARCDC 2017 Annual Report, which can be viewed on their website at: <http://alabamarcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/FINAL-RCD-2017.pdf> .



International Motorsports Hall of Fame

<http://www.motorsportshalloffame.com/?homepage=true>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$200,000

The International Motorsports Hall of Fame, located in Talladega County, was established to manage and control facilities that house and display exhibits related to the automobile racing industry. The museum had around 21,000 visitors during the past year, representing countries all over the world.

Some repairs and maintenance were performed during FY 2016-17. Employee salary, benefit costs and other obligations have been met.

Several major organizations held events at the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in the Fox Sports 1 Dome. Enthusiastic supporters made several donations, including display cabinets, autographed racing helmets and model cars.

The International Motorsports Hall of Fame continues to strive to be a top-notch museum and tourist attraction to Alabama.





Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)

<http://www.aalga.us/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$ 5,241,283

A Memorandum of Understanding among Alabama's three land grant universities: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University and Tuskegee University formed AALGA in June, 2000.

The majority of the FY 2016-17 funds distributed by ACHE to AALGA were used to match federal funds to Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University for approved USDA/NIFA Evans-Allen and McIntire-Stennis (Forestry) research programs. A total of 35 approved research projects were funded at both Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University. The three university deans meet on a regular basis to develop priorities for programs that utilize these funds to make them operational.

AALGA is partnering with the Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture to further develop research programs targeting industrial hemp with the aim of establishing an alternative cash crop for the state.

AALGA's unique programming across all three land grant universities is geared towards generating additional research interest. Through deliberate and structured collaborations, participating researchers address emerging research challenges affecting the state.

Faculty are encouraged to use these limited funds to attract much larger funding on a national and international scale. These projects frequently provide immediate benefits to farmers and citizens of the state. At the same time, they reduce duplication in agricultural research and utilize the scientific expertise of scientists at all three universities.



Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF)

<http://www.alabamahumanities.org/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$330,000

The FY 2016-17 funds allocated through ACHE to AHF were used for the MAKING ALABAMA Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. The activities included working with Tatum Design, the contractor commissioned for the exhibit design and fabrication of the project, and to attend and speak to participants at six regional workshops sponsored by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

Print and social media were used to give communities across Alabama the opportunity to host the exhibit as part of the Bicentennial Celebration.

In addition, AHF launched the MAKING ALABAMA Bicentennial exhibit website located at www.makingalabama.org.



Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC)

<http://alconservationdistricts.gov/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$1,573,376

In FY 2017, each of the 67 Conservation Districts received \$20,540 to assist the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in delivery of financial assistance for conservation practices. These funds provided districts the ability to provide direct conservation technical and administrative assistance to NRCS programs on private lands. Each district's staff activities included meeting and greeting customers, taking applications, processing applications, GIS map preparations, and follow-up. District technical experts provided conservation planning assistance to customers and verification to NRCS that conservation practices were applied on-the-ground.

The top five conservation practices applied were Prescribed Burning, Firebreaks, Heavy Use Area (livestock watering, loafing, and feeding areas), Fencing, and Tree Planting. Examples of other applied conservation practices included irrigation, nutrient management, conservation tillage, cover crops, prescribed grazing, invasive species control, and erosion control. Over 20,000 conservation practices were applied by NRCS and districts statewide.

Districts also conducted conservation education activities that included groundwater festivals, land judging activities, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4H activities, State Envirothon, poster and essay contests, teacher workshops, Sammy Soil and Ruby Raindrop, conservation tours and workshops, and stream cleanups.

District staff and Soil and Water Conservation district supervisors were also provided training and professional development in conservation programs and delivery.



Conserve Alabama is an initiative of the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee that provides tools and educational information about the wise use of our abundant natural resources so future generations can enjoy the same Alabama the Beautiful we know and love.



Alabama Black Belt Adventures (ALBBAA)

<http://www.alabamablackbeltadventures.org>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$300,000

The Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association (ALBBAA) is a non-profit organization committed to promoting outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities in the state's 23-county Black Belt region. This extends across the state and lies below the Appalachian foothills and above the Coastal Plain. An important component in this initiative is the Black Belt's widely acclaimed hunting and fishing opportunities which have an annual economic impact of about \$1 billion and 11,000 jobs. B.A.S.S. founder Ray Scott and Buckmasters' founder Jackie Bushman signed on early in the effort to help promote the region. They shot a promotional video for Alabama Black Belt Adventures declaring that the "Black Belt region of Alabama is a hunters' paradise and the fishing is world-class." Other popular outdoor recreational activities in the Black Belt include canoeing, horseback riding, hiking, whitewater rafting and bird watching. ALBBAA also works closely with numerous tourism partners representing the region's rich

cultural and heritage assets, ranging from ancient Native American mounds to sites of some of the nation's most important civil rights events.

ALBBAA launched several projects this year targeting the Millennial and Generation Z age groups. Their aim is to introduce someone to the Black Belt region's natural resources and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Outdoor recreation remains ALBBAA's signature economic development tool for branding the Black Belt region as a destination and for generating sustainable revenues for the communities and the state of Alabama. As a result, ALBBAA has focused its attention on developing stronger, supportive roles with the many chambers of commerce, tourism councils and educational institutions. ALBBAA uses a multi-media approach of print, electronic and educational booths at hunting and fishing expos in its promotional activities.



<http://www.alaforestry.org/?page=55>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$266,998

The Alabama Forestry Foundation's Black Belt Initiative fully funded math and science coaches at Thomasville Elementary School and J.U. Blacksher during FY 2016-17.

Growing professional learning teams for educators at the schools in math and science proves key to success for students. Coaches constantly update teachers on concepts, learning ideas, and targets that students should be achieving. They plan, model, and co-teach lessons to assist grade level teachers. Additionally, these coaches provide a distinct depth of knowledge training that ensures students are prepared, not just for testing, but for the next level of learning. They provide small group and one-on-one student instruction to close the gap for students needing additional assistance.

Activities:

- ACT Aspire Celebration—Top five scoring students in third-sixth grades recognized with a celebratory lunch
- AMSTI Professional Learning Teams—Teacher trainings held for teachers to collaborate on strategies and standards with grade level teachers for math and science
- AMSTI Summer Training—Summer training for teachers on AMSTI math and science kits
- Robotics Best Competition—Thomasville Robotics team participated in Robotics Best Competition at Auburn University. Team also visited Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
- Thomasville City School District Technology Expo—Students from all three campuses of Thomasville City Schools District demonstrated problem-solving skills at a technology expo
- Math Club—Thomasville Elementary School Math Team consists of 20 students (second-fourth grades); club focuses on math/science explorations
- Stream Team—STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, and Math) Team, is an after school club at J.U. Blacksher, that stimulates enthusiasm and a love for math and science in third-sixth graders. Students work cooperatively to build a community of problem solvers





Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)

<http://www.blackbelttreasures.com/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$200,000

During FY 2016-17, BBTCAC has provided arts education experiences to over 2,600 students of all ages from pre-school to senior adults. Many of these students were reached during in-school and after-school enrichment programs because of the addition of newly trained Black Belt Treasures Teaching Artists. This was the result of a partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Alabama Arts Alliance. The Teaching Artists serve in regional schools providing enrichment programs which integrate

the arts and the curriculum. Additionally, a new certification program, ARTS CULTIVATE has been inaugurated to make available business training to prepare artists to establish successful creative businesses, while growing the quality and marketability of their work. ARTS CULTIVATE is a partnership between the University of West Alabama Office of Economic Development and Outreach and the University of Alabama Small Business Development Center Network.





National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI)

<https://www.ncfi.usss.gov/ncfi/>

<http://www.alabamaprosecutor.com/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$250,000

The National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) was established in 2007 through a partnership initiative between the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Secret Service, the Alabama Office of Prosecutions Services, the state of Alabama, and the city of Hoover. The primary purpose is to provide state and local law enforcement officers the training necessary to conduct basic electronic crimes investigations, respond to network intrusion incidents, and conduct computer forensic examinations. Prosecutors and judges are trained for the use of digital evidence in court. All NCFI training courses are made available through federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

Since 2008 the NCFI has trained 6,300 state and local prosecutors, judges and law enforcement from all 50 states and three territories, making an economic impact on Alabama of \$18,280,000. Included in that number are 471 Alabama law enforcement officers, judges and prosecutors,

providing the state with \$3,289,036 in equipment and software. Without the NCFI, similar training would have cost Alabama \$7,005,020. The NCFI is staffed by 11 full-time employees to handle the day-to-day operations. Eight of those are employees of the US Secret Service, and three are state of Alabama employees through the Office of Prosecution Services.

In addition to the law enforcement training, the NCFI and OPS provide cyber security protection and awareness training to school groups (college and high school), as well as financial, legal, government and community groups.

The expenditures through the Alabama Commission on Higher Education cover the three full-time state employees assigned to the NCFI, and logistic and operational cost of training not covered by the federal budget. In addition, it allows for all of the non-law enforcement training.





Ability Sport Network (ASN)

<http://asn.huntingdon.edu/>

FY 2016-17 Appropriation: \$60,000

The purpose of the Huntingdon College–Ability Sport Network (HC-ASN) continues to be two-fold in that it provides sport opportunities to students in the schools who would otherwise not be able to participate in after-school athletics because of a physical disability. This is required in the 2013 Office of Civil Rights mandate. The second fold is to facilitate the further training of educators and coaches in the state in disability sport and adapted activity (Certified Disability Sport Specialist). The specific activities of the Ability Sport Network during FY 2016-17 included the on-going refinement of deliverables at the HC-ASN site and the second-year outcomes in their second site, ASN at the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH).

The HC-ASN decreased their skill development sessions (after school practices) from 72 to 51 in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair racing, and boccia; however, they held three Inclusive Sport Day Saturdays, which provided the ability for a participant to bring a friend or family member. The number of competitions decreased from 14 to 13, including 11 travel competitions such as the competition at the SEC Tournament in Birmingham. HC-ASN also hosted two double-header competitions with the University of Alabama in Huntsville team. Funding limitations in FY 2016-17 prohibited HC-ASN from participating in any national competitions.

HC-ASN added 10 new off-season training days, which allowed participants to further develop their "fitness" goals and participate in

skill specific research. They again increased their numbers on the registered team of cyclists, both disabled and non-disabled, in the *Montgomery Cycling for Sight* marathon from four to seven.

Within their current scope, HC-ASN hosted one Certified Disability Sport Specialist training program in the month of September

at Huntingdon College in which 22 participants completed lecture-based and on-site activity training. This training is both an online course and a full-day of skill development, which allowed the educators and coaches to earn Professional Learning Units from the Alabama State Department of Education. This year they also began working with the YMCA to train the employees in their sport and recreation programs who desired skill development in ability sport; and also opened up the training to students studying in this area at regional institutions (Huntingdon College, UAH, Auburn, Troy, and AUM). The ASN-HC program has trained 102 physical educators, special educators, coaches, allied health professionals, students, faculty members, and community health professionals to become proficient in the delivery of ability sport.



HUNTINGDON COLLEGE

Ability Sport Network (ASN)



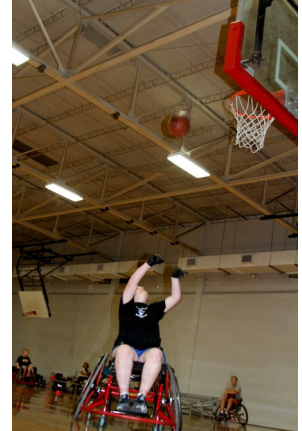
Ability Sport Network (ASN)

Despite having four participants "age out" of the program, one of whom is now attending Huntingdon College and another who is attending Auburn University at Montgomery and is a member of the Auburn Wheelchair Basketball team, these HC-ASN activities provided primary services to 21 youth with disabilities from various schools which include: Park Crossing High School, Catholic Preparatory School, Hooper Academy, Goodwyn Junior High School, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School, Garrett Elementary School, Halcyon Elementary School, Redland Elementary School, Valiant Cross, Carver High School and Jefferson Davis High School. The primary after school activities for youth with disabilities averaged six to eight participants each session, the off-season training days averaged 15 participants per session, and the inclusive sport days averaged 26 participants (both disabled and non-disabled youth).

In addition to the continuation and expansion of HC-ASN in Montgomery and the surrounding River Region, FY 2016-17 was especially successful because of the use of funding dedicated to the expansion of ASN programs and services to north Alabama. The University of Alabama at Huntsville Ability Sport Network (UAH-ASN) junior varsity wheelchair basketball



team competed successfully in a number of venues. They continue to provide primary services to 16 youth with disabilities from various schools across Limestone, Madison and Morgan Counties. They averaged six to eight players in 43 skill development sessions in wheelchair basketball (after school practice), 17 wheelchair basketball competitions including competition at the Big Peach Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia, the Winter Class Regional Tournament in Raleigh, North Carolina and the National Championship Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Following the HC-ASN model, eight strength and conditioning off-season fitness sessions were held over the summer months averaging 10 per session. This program continues to expand its outreach with demonstration games at local high schools and middle schools, inclusive games in UAH intramurals and high school transition demonstrations for high school students with disabilities. The head coach of the UAH-ASN wheelchair basketball team has been a strong advocate for more sport and physical activities for people with disabilities. Of note is the choice to host the first tailgate party for local youth and young adults with developmental disabilities in which the current team members will provide inclusive activities and adapted games. This program was held on September 28th and had over 45 individuals signed up to attend.



The on-going research related to this program continues to be accepted nationwide as both knowledge producing and applicable to the further development of youth disability sport.



Special Programs Report

Dr. Paul Mohr

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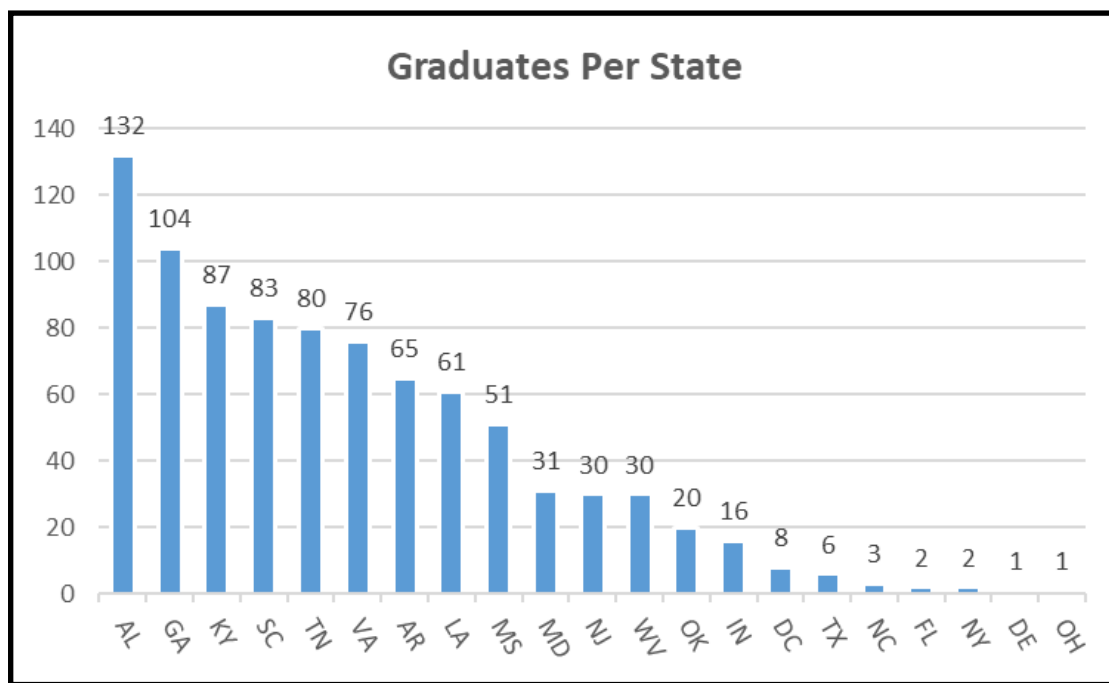
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The Doctoral Scholars and the Academic Common Market are two programs in the regional interstate compact for education that were established through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The Doctoral Scholars program was established in 1993, and the Academic Common Market program was established in 1974.

SREB DOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

DOCTORAL SCHOLARS GRADUATES

The Doctoral Scholars Fellowship is a competitive scholars program designed to increase the diversity of faculty in the state. Alabama is continuing to lead the field in the number of graduates in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program. During the 2016-17 academic year, Alabama's numbers rose to 132 graduates, thanks to Auburn University, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. (*see state breakdown below*)

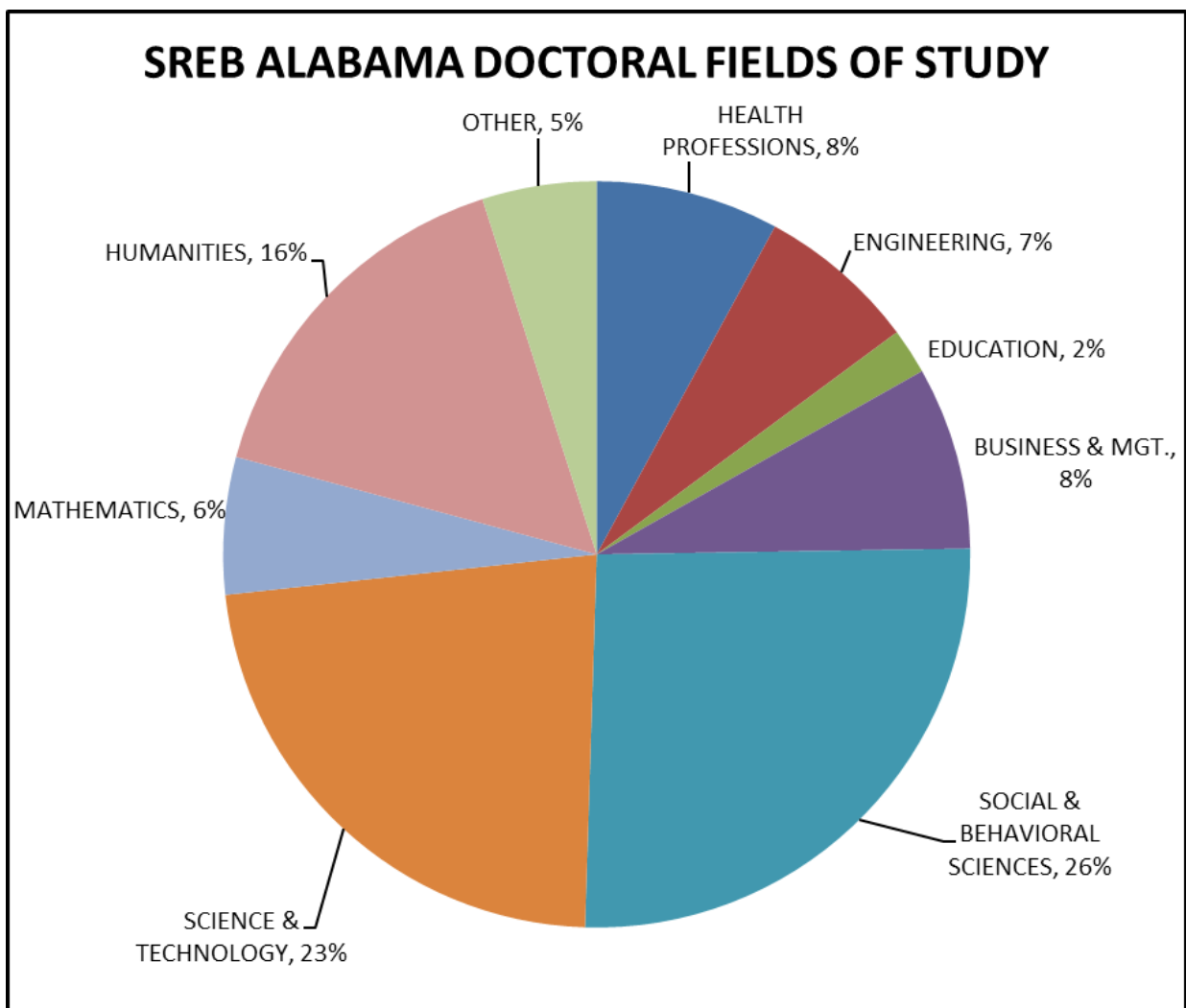




Special Programs Report

SREB Alabama Doctoral Fields of Study

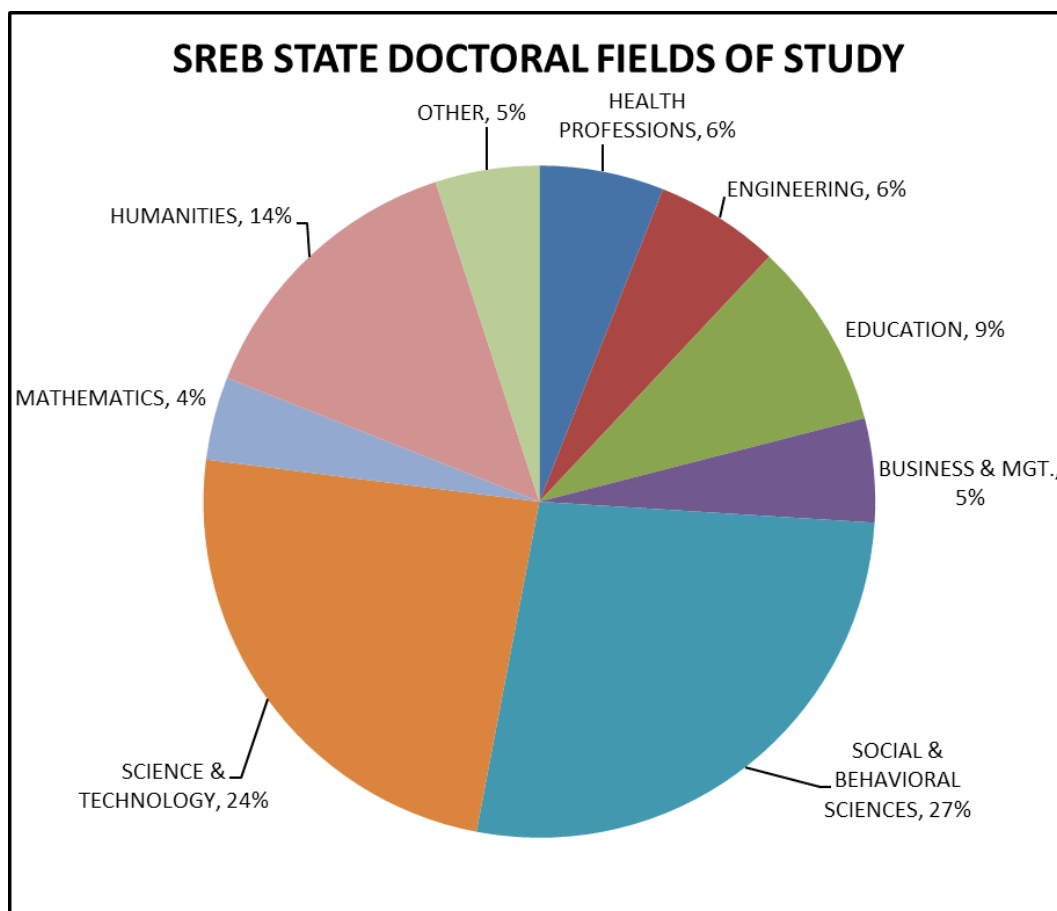
Social and Behavioral Sciences (26%) continue to be the most popular field of study for Alabama's doctoral scholars. The next category is Science and Technology (23%), followed by Humanities (16%).





Special Programs Report

SREB State Doctoral Fields of Study



Comparison of Alabama and Other SREB States

Field of Study	Alabama	Other SREB States
Social and Behavioral Sciences	26%	27%
Science and Technology	23%	27%
Humanities	16%	14%



Special Programs Report

SREB Doctoral Graduate Feature

Dr. Shawanda Thomas was featured in a SREB publication about her project Girls IMPACT (Increasing Mathematical Potential Among College-Bound Teens). Initially funded by the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program, Girls IMPACT is a six-week summer program for 12-16 year-old minority girls about the opportunities in STEM careers. The 2016 summer program was held at the Bessemer Public Library and the summer 2017 program was at Lawson State Community College.

During the 2017 program, Lawson State's NASA Scholars Program supported the Girls IMPACT interns. Additionally, the American Association of University Women awarded a \$10,000 Community Action Grant Girls IMPACT Program for summers 2018-19 and an expansion of the program will be further supported through Title III funds.

The Girls IMPACT program, "STEM Academicians Invest in Future Generations," was published in Diverse Issues in Higher Education (July 27, 2017 edition).

The Governor's Office of Minority Affairs held its inaugural Alabama HBCU Roundtable Discussion on Minority Women in STEM September 28th on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Dr. Thomas served as a distinguished panelist for an-depth conversation on the underrepresentation of minority women in STEM.



Dr. Shawanda Thomas



Special Programs Report

The Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market has concluded 36 academic years providing a tuition-savings program for college students pursuing degrees in fields not offered by an Alabama public in-state institution.

ACHE staff received applications and inquiries from numerous Alabama residents who were interested in out-of-state programs at the baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels. The tuition savings for Alabama residents was \$2,339,979.20, which is more than \$1,145,857.21 for the previous year.

ACM Tuition Savings by State of Residence

State	Tuition Savings
Alabama	\$2,339,979.20
Arkansas	\$1,664,217.48
Delaware	\$1,600,065.90
Florida	\$593,033.30
Georgia	\$18,657,199.00
Kentucky	\$3,593,757.16
Louisiana	\$1,169,733.76
Maryland	\$13,888,259.38
Mississippi	\$1,365,052.96
Oklahoma	\$250,730.58
South Carolina	\$2,242,301.20
Tennessee	\$2,818,579.02
Texas	\$541,525.13
Virginia	\$11,398,512.00
West Virginia	\$958,998.00
Total	\$63,081,944.07

*Tuition savings by state were calculated by determining the difference between in- and out-of-state tuition for each program during the Academic Year 2015-16, then adding the difference for each student certified. Savings reflected are only for the Academic Year 2015-16.



Special Programs Report

The Academic Common Market

As indicated by the chart below, the average tuition savings per student for Alabama residents was \$16,595.60. The previous year, the average was \$8,425.82.

ACM Average Tuition Savings per Student by State of Residence

State	Tuition Savings
Alabama	\$16,595.60
Arkansas	\$16,477.40
Delaware	\$15,385.25
Florida	\$13,478.03
Georgia	\$21,105.43
Kentucky	\$19,638.02
Louisiana	\$14,265.05
Maryland	\$20,127.91
Mississippi	\$15,167.26
Oklahoma	\$16,715.37
South Carolina	\$18,083.07
Tennessee	\$15,486.70
Texas	\$12,893.46
Virginia	\$19,385.22
West Virginia	\$16,254.20

*Average savings per student, for the AY 15-16, were calculated by taking the total state savings and dividing it by the number of certified students.



Special Programs Report

Former Alabama Resident Applauds Academic Common Market



Christine Oliver

Former Alabama resident, Christine Oliver, is one of many who saved on the cost of education through the Academic Common Market. She was certified for enrollment in the Florida State University Master's degree program in Integrated Marketing and Management Communication in 2010. Christine joined the Southern Regional Education Board in 2016 as the digital communications specialist.

"I saved thousands of dollars by participating in the Academic Common Market. I had my heart and mind set on a certain program that was not available in my home state of Alabama, and I didn't know how I was going to afford it," Christine recalls. "The Academic Common Market helped make my program affordable. Without those savings, I would not have been able to attend and graduate from the program that prepared me for the career I'm in now. I'm so thankful I found out about the Academic Common Market. Everyone I interacted with throughout the application process was friendly,

helpful and efficient. I would recommend it to anyone who's looking to receive a specialized degree at an out-of-state university."



Student Assistance Programs

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The Alabama Commission on Higher Education administers the following student financial aid programs. The FY 2016-17 awards are listed for each program.

Alabama Student Assistance Program (4,157 awards totaling \$2,807,618)

The Alabama Student Assistance Program provides funds to help those students who demonstrate substantial financial need. It is the state's only need-based student aid program for residents attending postsecondary education institutions in Alabama.

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (532 awards totaling \$721,651)

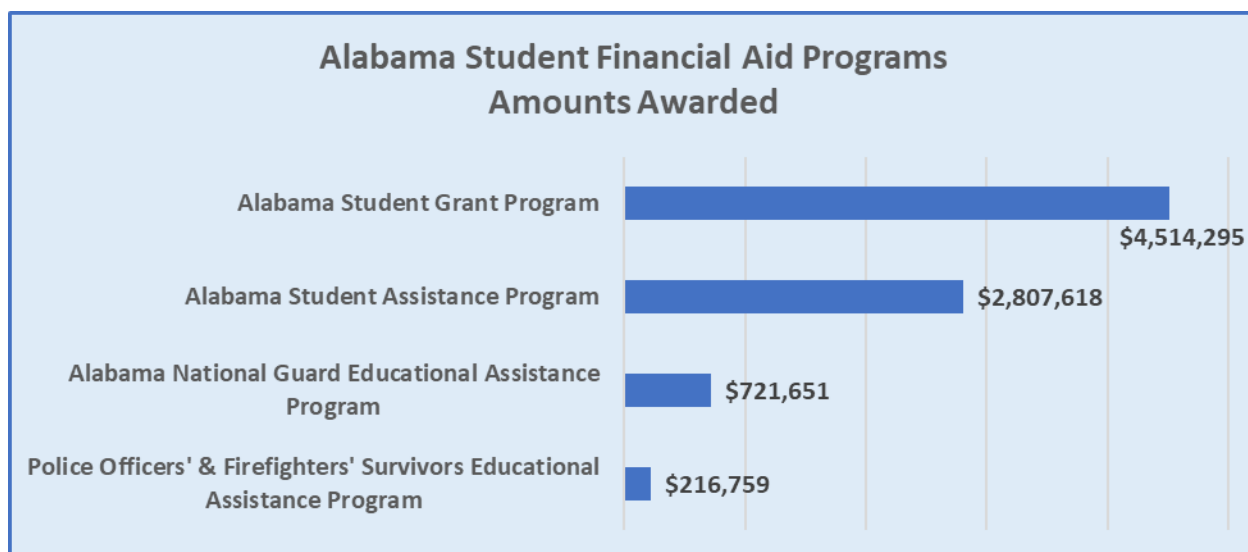
The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program is designed to help professional members of the Alabama National Guard pursue undergraduate degrees and to a limited extent, graduate degrees. Active Army and Air National Guard members may receive a maximum of \$2,000 annually.

Alabama Student Grant Program (5,225 awards totaling \$4,514,295)

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, non-profit Alabama colleges and universities.

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program (25 awards totaling \$216,759)

The Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program provides funds for tuition, fees, books and supply expenses for undergraduate studies at Alabama public colleges and universities for dependents and spouses of police officers, firefighters and rescue squad members killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty.

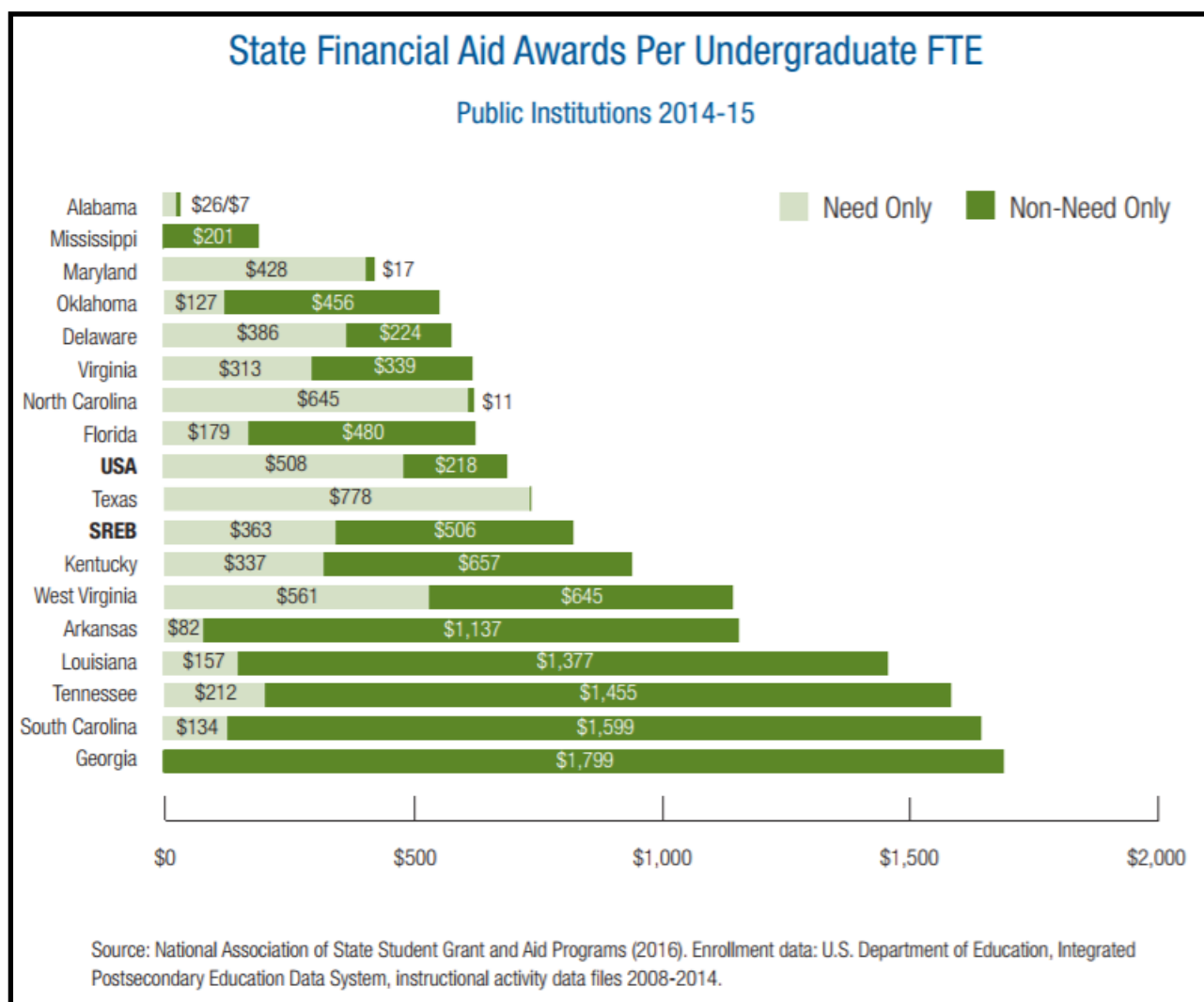


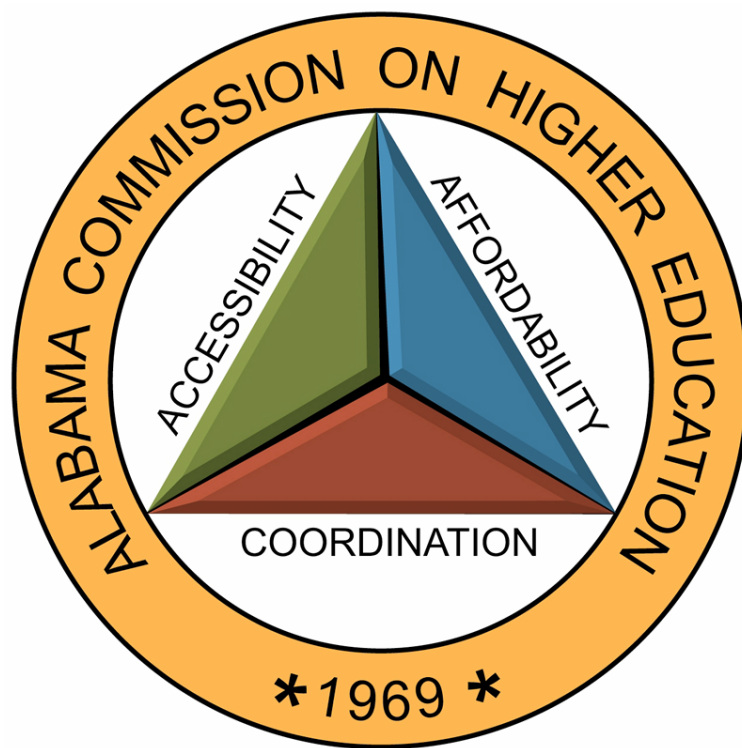


Student Assistance Programs

Charting Affordability in Southern States

In the SREB region, state financial aid awards per student in 2014-15 were higher than the national average, but most of this aid was awarded on a basis other than need. Georgia and South Carolina each spent more than \$1,700 per FTE student on all types of state financial aid. Among all SREB states, North Carolina and Texas spent the most on need-based financial aid per student.





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